

'Assad prepares people for peace'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad is preparing his people for peace with Israel, a senior Israeli intelligence officer said here Tuesday. "President Assad is preparing his people for difficult decisions, which means peace with Israel," General Yaakov Ami Dror told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. Knesset sources said. "It is difficult for President Assad to accept that Syria must pay a price for an accord with Israel and to envision the Israeli flag flying on our embassy in Damascus," said Gen. Dror, who heads the analysis section of military intelligence. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said meanwhile that a meeting at "the highest level" would be necessary to push the negotiations forward between Syria and Israel. "Damascus insists that the meetings take place at ambassador level," Mr. Rabin said.

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**'Red-Dead canal is more feasible'**

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Speaking at a meeting of the Washington Institute on the Middle East, Dr. Munther Haddadin, Jordan's representative in the Mideast Regional Development Working Group and a co-chairman of the Jordan Rift Valley development project, responded to a question from Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) news service regarding canal projects and nuclear desalination. On the issue of the canal, Dr. Haddadin said that they were awaiting a feasibility study in the fall. "The alternative Mediterranean Sea to Jordan River to Dead Sea is what Jordan would prefer," Dr. Haddadin said. "But you have to look at the economic and the environmental costs. In the Med-Dead alternative, the economic factors speak in its favour. If you add the environmental costs, it could become more expensive. In the Red Sea-Dead Sea alternative, the environmental factors are all favourable as are the demographic factors," said Dr. Haddadin.

Sharif Zeid visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who is also defence minister, on Tuesday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Marei and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Major to tour Middle East

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major will visit Israel, the West Bank and Jordan in March, a spokesman said Tuesday. He will tour the areas between March 12 and 14, a spokesman at the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street said. An Israeli television report said that Mr. Major would also visit the Gaza Strip, but Mr. Major's spokesman said that was not yet firm.

Jordan stresses refugees' rights

CAIRO (Petra) — Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Assem Ghosheh said Tuesday Jordan had exerted strenuous efforts to help the Palestinian people regain their rights, including the right to self-determination on their national soil. At a meeting of the supervisors of Palestinian affairs at the Arab League in Cairo, Mr. Ghosheh said the Kingdom did not spare any effort to help the Palestinians through all stages and developments of the Palestinian cause. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty included a clear phrasing on the need to resolve the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the international law, which is the main reference for solving international disputes, said Mr. Ghosheh, who underlined that the right of refugees to return was the main concern of the Jordanian government's policies.

Israelis attend Mideast oil talks

MUSCAT (AFP) — Israeli officials were attending their first Middle East petroleum and gas conference to explore the possibility of future energy deals with Gulf Arab states, delegation head Yossi Lubaton said here Tuesday. "This is the first step in conducting some relationship between Israel and the countries of the region after... very long years that we did not talk," said Mr. Lubaton, a senior official at Israel's ministry of energy and infrastructure.

Dini cabinet runs into trouble

ROME (AFP) — Prime Minister-designate Lamberto Dini ran into trouble Tuesday immediately after announcing his cabinet as outgoing Premier Silvio Berlusconi and his allies said they would vote against it in parliament and two cabinet appointees turned down the job offers. Mr. Berlusconi and his allies had pressed for Mr. Dini to include members of the outgoing government, but Mr. Dini refused, in particular a demand that Gianni Letta, who served as undersecretary to the presidency, keep his job.

Clinton cancels visit after bomb scare

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — President Bill Clinton canceled a scheduled tour of an earthquake-damaged university building Tuesday after Secret Service agents found three devices resembling pipe bombs, officials said. "The bomb squad was called at 7:40 a.m. after the Secret Service found three devices resembling pipe bombs. They are still there, that's all," said officer Rigo Romero, a spokesman for the Los Angeles police department. Mr. Clinton was to tour a building damaged during last year's earthquake at the California State University at Northridge, when agents found the devices.

2,700 feared dead in massive Japan quake

KOBE, Japan (Agencies) — Japan's industrial heartland lay in ruins after a massive earthquake struck Tuesday, leaving more than 2,700 dead or missing and destroying the state of the art quake-proof bridges and rail-lines in three of the country's largest cities.

The quake was the biggest to hit Japan in nearly 47 years, striking a region where residents had previously felt safe from the quake peril.

The massive tremor, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck before dawn Tuesday at the cities of Kobe, Osaka and the former imperial capital of Kyoto.

As 3,000 troops poured into the city for the start of full search operations Wednesday, Yasuo Tanaka, head of emergency services for the Kobe municipal government, said the quake had

defied the worst imaginings of city officials.

"We are trying to do our best and had prepared for all kinds of natural disasters. But the scale was just beyond our belief," he told AFP.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama set up an emergency headquarters and promised government assistance for victims.

"We are now completing the drawing up of rough fi-

gures on the situation and full operations are scheduled to start tomorrow (Wednesday)," Mr. Tanaka said.

Eighteen hours after the quake, the National Police Agency said 1,590 people were confirmed dead, and 1,017 were missing. At least 6,334 were listed as injured.

The 20-second seismic wave rippled through expressways and railway tracks as if they were twigs, buried

lumps of concrete from the rooftops with a giant's hand, and left steel reinforcement bars tangled like spaghetti.

Dozens of aftershocks struck the region after the first quake.

Scores of fires raged out of control, defeating teams of sweating firefighters, hampered by blocked roads and breached water mains. In desperation, helicopters were being deployed to douse the fires, drawing water from nearby Osaka Bay.

Around 60,000 households were without power, and 490,000 without gas.

Worst hit by far was Kobe, Japan's fifth-largest metropolis, where at nightfall, the centre was transformed into a ghost town as dazed residents wandered in icy temperatures

(Continued on page 7)

No Jordanians reported hurt

AMMAN (J.T.) — No Jordanians were hurt in the earthquake which hit central Japan Tuesday morning, the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry said that it was informed by the Jordanian embassy in Tokyo that no Jordanians reside in the disaster area.

"We haven't heard anything as yet from Tokyo," said Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Iku Ikeda when asked whether the quake would have any impact on the Japanese Crown Prince's scheduled visit to Jordan starting on Jan. 26.

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan fully backs Ifran resolution

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Tuesday voiced satisfaction with the outcome of a two-day meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in the Moroccan city of Ifran and said the Kingdom fully supported the final resolution adopted by the meeting.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kababir, who represented Jordan at the ministerial level meeting held under the chairmanship of Morocco's King Hassan II, also emphasised that Jordan fully supported all efforts to save Jerusalem, protect Palesti-

nian rights there, back the steadfastness of the city's Palestinian residents and preserve the cultural and religious heritage of the Holy City.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kababir also said Jordan fully supported the final resolution adopted by the meeting and would work towards implementing its recommendations.

The final resolution emphasised that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East could be achieved only after the implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the

principle of land for peace, Petra said.

It called on the international community to adhere to Security Council resolution 478 which forbade countries from moving their embassies from Israel to occupied Jerusalem, Petra reported.

The resolution also called on the secretary-general of the OIC to contact international organisations with a view to safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Holy City, the agency said.

"Concrete proposals were made to save Al Quds and there was no divergence among any of the members," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told Reuters after

the committee's first session in Ifran on Monday.

The final resolution was also expected to condemn Israel's decision to ban Palestinian activity in Arab East Jerusalem, Reuter said.

The resolution was also to ask Moscow and Washington, sponsors of the Middle East peace conference, to intervene to stop the Judaization of Jerusalem, according to Reuters.

Mr. Kababir said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had confirmed to him that he would visit Jordan this

(Continued on page 7)

Yemen softens its stand in Saudi row

PARIS (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh hinted Tuesday he was ready to renew a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, and gas conference to explore the possibility of future energy deals with Gulf Arab states, delegation head Yossi Lubaton said here Tuesday.

"This is the first step in conducting some relationship between Israel and the countries of the region after... very long years that we did not talk," said Mr. Lubaton, a senior official at Israel's ministry of energy and infrastructure.

"We accept that the settlement of the border issue should be based on the Taif accord" of 1994, Mr. Saleh told a press conference at the end of an official visit to Paris.

The treaty assigned the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir to the Saudi kingdom. They are also claimed by Yemen.

Previously Sanaa argued that the treaty expired in September 1992 and was opposed to renewing it. Two years of talks have failed to make any headway.

The dispute, which has provoked several armed clashes since early December, escalated into a tense stand-off between Yemen and Saudi forces at the

"We do not want war, even if we are the victim of aggression," Mr. Saleh said.

Where the boundary is ill-defined between the two countries — along the border of former South Yemen which merged with the north four years ago — a special commission will be created to demarcate it, the president said.

If there is disagreement there should be arbitration, and if there is deadlock we should take the matter to the International Court of Justice" in the Hague, Mr. Saleh added.

However, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Ansari said that "historical, religious and geographical ties

increasing resistance that has weakened their influence," he said. "The number of enemies is decreasing and these enemies have become desperate or near desperate."

He said neither the Gulf war nor the U.N. trade sanctions which blocked Iraq's lifeblood exports of oil could force Iraq to submit.

"Iraq's enemies have failed in their bid to prevent the people of Iraq from keeping on or to weaken their resolve," he said.

Several thousand demonstrators took to the streets and burned the U.S. flag in front of a United Nations office in Baghdad. Radio and television broadcast anthems in praise of the Iraqi leader and the Mother of Battles, Iraq's term for the war.

"Those in the anti-Iraq camp have been facing in-

creasing resistance that has weakened their influence," he said. "The number of enemies is decreasing and these enemies have become desperate or near desperate."

He said neither the Gulf war nor the U.N. trade sanctions which blocked Iraq's lifeblood exports of oil could force Iraq to submit.

"Iraq's enemies have failed in their bid to prevent the people of Iraq from keeping on or to weaken their resolve," he said.

"Remember the sufferings of the embargo which have entered every Iraqi house, Engrave in the memory of your children the name of the criminal (Washington) whose harm against Iraq has never been done by any other cri-

minated later. He added that Ingush President Ruslan Aushev had acted as go-between in brokering the ceasefire accord.

But Mr. Imayev could not give any firm official signing.

Meanwhile, correspondents at the Chechen capital of Grozny said Russian bombardments of Chechen positions in the city were continuing Tuesday.

He said the ceasefire could start as early as Wednesday night.

A government spokesman confirmed the accord, which came during an hour-long meeting between Mr. Chernomyrdin and Vice Premier Sergei Shakhray on one hand and Mr. Imayev and Chechen Economics Minister Teimuraz Abubakarov on the other.

Mr. Shakhray had briefed Mr. Chernomyrdin on his exploratory talks Monday with Mr. Imayev and Mr. Abubakarov.

Mr. Shakhray stopped negotiations.

Soldiers waded in using

fists and boots while youths lobbed rocks, witnesses said.

Another five soldiers set about thumping a woman and several girls.

Three young men were arrested and two Palestinian officials briefly detained, including Palestinian Sports Minister Azmi Shuebi, who was among those beaten.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abd Rabbo called for "unity in the struggle to save our land," Muslim fundamentalists and independent activists also joined the demonstrations calling for the removal of all settlements.

The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) should halt negotiations with Israel because Jewish settlements makes them worthless," said Hanan Ashrawi, former Palestinian spokeswoman.

Iraq has previously said that a half million children have died as a result of deprivations resulting from the sanctions. It has given no official figure of the number of Iraqi war dead, but the U.S. military has said the Gulf war killed 100,000 Iraqi troops, plus 35,000 to 45,000 civilians.

Iraq also marked the war anniversary — the day after the end of a deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and the day on which U.S.-led allies began bombing Baghdad — with processions and artistic and musical events.

President Saddam lashed out at the rulers of Saudi Arabia who he said had turned their land containing

mineral in history.

King urges government to implement changes needed and reduce bureaucracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf.

King urged the government to cut down on bureaucracy, "which hamper the administrative and economic development."

"We want Jordan to serve as a model and an example for our Arab brothers in terms of its pan-Arab affiliation, democratic life and political pluralism, and to reflect what the Jordanian people enjoy of responsible freedoms," the King said.

He said Jordan should consolidate its efforts towards helping the country and the future generations to attain the aspirated goals.

The present stage requires increasing efforts towards reform so that the various institutions can continue to shoulder their responsibilities with efficiency and distinguished performance," the King said.

"The government should review what has been

achieved and carry out the required changes and reforms so that the country's institutions will be able to deal with the requirements of the present stage," the King said.

The King urged the government to cut down on bureaucracy, "which hamper the administrative and economic development."

"We want Jordan to serve as a model and an example for our Arab brothers in terms of its pan-Arab affiliation, democratic life and political pluralism, and to reflect what the Jordanian people enjoy of responsible freedoms," the King said.

King was reassured about a number of matters of concern to the citizens, including preparations for the Holy Month of Ramadan and measures to meet the public's requirements during the month, Sharif Zeid said.

The King was also reassured about measures taken by the government for the restoration of the country's water rights in implementation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the government's action in dealing with poverty and unemployment, in organising the employment of guest workers and in adopting measures to curtail road accidents.

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem attended the meeting.

The prime minister,

blocks to prevent them reaching land designated for an Israeli "industrial zone."

Settlers provoked Palestinian anger this month with a series of new West Bank land grabs ahead of the redeployment of the Israeli army which is under negotiation in line with the autonomy agreements.

Jewish families have started moving into Qadumim settlement where the population is due to grow by 30 per cent following the construction of 200 more houses the "mayor" said.

Some 2,000 people already live at the colony, just west of Nablus, which has plans to house 15,000 people.

"Within two months, 200 more families will move into their homes in a new quarter," said Yossi Kapah.

Government and private surveys show that more than 5,000 settlement housing units were planned for 1994-1995, despite Israel

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

Battle looming for Mogadishu

MOGAIDSHU (AFP) — A battle for Mogadishu airport is looming as U.N. troops depart.

Rival chieftains told AFP separately here that their militia would control it and defend it.

The 8,000 U.N. troops remaining, garrisoned at the airport, the port and in the city, will all leave Somalia by late March following the failure of rival warlords to agree on a government of national unity for this lawless Horn of Africa nation.

The dozen or so relief agencies remaining in Somalia are planning to withdraw their expatriates — mostly to Nairobi — until the situation settles.

The departure of the U.N. troops will be protected by an amphibious fleet from the United States, France, Britain, Italy, Pakistan and Malaysia. U.N. Special Representative Victor Ghebo of Ghana told AFP.

U.S. marines will come ashore in the final stages as the last soldiers leave, he said.

After that, with no government in place, the port and the airport, with their lucrative fees, will be up for grabs by rival militias, with the victors able to import ammunition, weapons and other supplies.

Both are in south Mogadishu, which is mostly controlled by General Mohammad Farah Aideed, but the Abgal sub-clan of self-declared President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, who controls north Mogadishu, holds the strategic enclave of Medina just beside the airport.

The Abgal, a sub-clan of the Hawiye, chased the Murusade, another Hawiye sub-clan, out of Medina late last year after Murusade leader Mohammad Qanyare Afrah switched allegiance from Mr. Ali Mahdi to Gen. Aideed.

The victorious Abgal commander in Medina, Musa Sudi Yalaho, told AFP in his battered enclave: "It is my responsibility to run the airport. We consider it our property, so we shall defend it if Aideed's men try to loot it. The airport will be fully controlled by us because of its proximity to Medina."

Mr. Qanyare Afrah, who chaired a "peace confer-

ence" of 13 factions in south Mogadishu to plan a government under Gen. Aideed, told AFP that "we are preparing forces to defend" the port and airport.

Various proposals are circulating in Mogadishu for joint north-south committees to run the two facilities, but Mr. Qanyare Afrah said flatly: "Ali Mahdi will not participate. If he wants war he will get it."

Both Mr. Yalaho and Mr. Qanyare Afrah said they would respect the 33-hectare U.S. embassy compound in south Mogadishu, which the United Nations has just evacuated, but both said they would fight if it the other side occupied it.

The compound is defended at the moment by 950-strong security battalion of Pakistani troops, but they will abandon it after contractors finish removing U.N. equipment, a process expected to take about a month.

It will then be handed back to the U.S. government.

Battles for the port appear less likely, as it is in an area occupied by militias whose leaders all owe allegiance to Gen. Aideed.

Mr. Yalaho conceded that "I can't say the port is ours."

Gen. Abo Samah Ben Abo Bakar, the Malaysian commander of the U.N. forces, said he expected there might be some demonstrations as the last U.N. troops left, and maybe some throwing of stones, but added: "I don't expect much trouble."

The protection force — two French warships are already here — will send up helicopter gunships as the U.N. troops depart, with fire-power far superior to the battered pick-up battle-wagons known as "technicals" which circulate in Mogadishu armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns.

The militias also use mortars, recoilless rifles, and 14.5mm cannon, but have no tanks, aircraft, or ships.

Gen. Abo said he was satisfied with security at the dusty airport, which is now home to the remaining U.N. civilians, but that it was being reviewed.

King meets aid foundation official

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court on Tuesday with Joseph Locke, vice-president of the International Ambassador Foundation based in Pasadena, California.

The foundation has been providing assistance to Jordan since 1982 in the form of expertise and technical aid to rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's deep appreciation to Mr. Locke and his foundation for the assistance to the Kingdom, and listened to Mr. Locke's briefing on the activities of the foundation which was established in 1975.

Mr. Locke told the Jordan Times later that since 1982 the foundation has given special attention to Jordan where he paid tribute to Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath for spearheading efforts in

His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives International Ambassador Foundation (Petra photo)

caring for handicapped children.

The foundation has 23 of its trained volunteers work-



ing for Jordanian centres that help the handicapped. Mr. Locke added:

The foundation, he said,

provides similar assistance to centres in Sri Lanka and Thailand but with a smaller number of volunteers.

Poland smuggled U.S. agents in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Six U.S. agents who were trapped inside Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, were rescued and smuggled out to Turkey with the help of Polish intelligence, the Washington Post newspaper said Tuesday.

The operation, headed by a Polish agent who had spied against the United States during the cold war, prompted Washington to help Warsaw slash its \$33 billion foreign debt by half, unidentified Polish and U.S. officials told the daily.

Washington turned to Poland for help in rescuing its agents because of extensive construction work carried out in Iraq by Polish engineering firms, the officials said.

A similar request was rebuffed by Britain and France, who were concerned about their own nationals who had been taken as "human shields" against foreign attacks by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the officials added.

The U.S. agents, from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Defence Intelligence Agency according to American officials, were in Iraq to monitor Iraqi troop movements near the border with Kuwait.

Given the passports to be

checked, the Iraqi officer brushed them aside saying: "No problem. You are friends, you can go."

Fearing border guards would ask the Americans their assumed Slavic names, which they were unable to pronounce, the Polish agents tried to get their friends drunk on whiskey with no luck, the officials said.

Nevertheless, the U.S. agents managed to cross the border safely on foot, the officials added.

No precise date for the rescue operation was given, other than it took place in the fall of 1990.

"It was high-risk," then CIA director William Webster told the daily, adding that the Poles "deserve a lot of credit."

"It was a good beginning for our relationship in the future," said Mr. Webster, whom the daily said travelled to Poland early November 1990 with a letter from then President George Bush announcing his intention to press other governments to forgive \$16.5 billion of Poland's foreign debt.

After a series of false starts, the U.S. agents, none of whom spoke Polish, were piled into a convoy of cars for their drive to the Turkish border.

North of Mosul, they were stopped by an Iraqi military officer who was quickly moved away from the cars by a Polish technician who complimented him on his fluent Polish and talked about the friendship between their two countries.

Given the passports to be

checked, the Iraqi officer brushed them aside saying: "No problem. You are friends, you can go."

Mr. Dalloul said that Lebanese army soldiers who had joined the SLA, including Gen. Lahd, had been struck off army lists.

Despite the launch of the Middle East peace process in October 1991, fighting has continued unabated in South Lebanon, where 19 Israeli soldiers and 34 SLA militiamen were killed in 1994.

Mahmoud, who died after a heart surgery, also featured in 25 movies and was reported to have recorded 200 songs, the most famous of which was "Innabi."

Mahmoud, who was laid to rest in his hometown near Cairo Tuesday, developed his talents since an early age. He joined the national Arab Music Conservatory in Cairo in 1938.

He joined the "Golden Tunes" troupe and took part in traditional concerts at Cairo theatres.

Mahmoud's contemporaries in Egyptian cinema included Shadia, Nagla Salam, Sharif Maher and Laila Fawzi.

Iryani visits U.S.

SANA (AFP) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani left Sanaa Tuesday for Washington to discuss regional issues following a tense standoff on Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia, the official news agency SABA reported.

Dr. Iryani, also deputy prime minister, said he would review "regional developments" with U.S. officials.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for the Middle East Robert Pelletreau made a series of visits to Sanaa at the start of the May-July Yemeni civil war last year, calling for "reconciliation" between northern and southern forces.

Karem Mahmoud dies at 72

By HASSAN Abu Ghannim Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Famous Egyptian singer, Karem Mahmoud, who died in London two days ago at the age of 72, was considered by the artistic community in Egypt as one of Egypt's best and most popular singers.

Mahmoud's songs were popular throughout the Arab World, and many artists placed him on the same level with other gifted singers like Farid Al Atrash, Abdul Halim Hafez and Mohammad Fawzi whose songs were popular in Egypt and the rest of the Arab World in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

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No letup in South Lebanon war of attrition

By Hala Boncompagni Agence France Presse

BEIRUT — Israel's war of attrition against Arab guerrillas in South Lebanon has shown no sign of slackening despite progress on other tracks of the peace process.

The two sides have vowed to destroy each other and clashes erupt almost daily.

The guerrillas launched some 25 attacks against Israeli troops and their proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in South Lebanon in the first half of January.

The violence, which has rocked South Lebanon since Israel invaded the country and first deployed there nearly 20 years ago, has reached a new peak while Lebanese-Israeli peace talks remain deadlocked pending progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Hizbullah vows to press on with its crusade and liberate South Lebanon from Israeli occupation while its arch enemy says peace depends on disarming the guerrillas.

Buoyed by fresh statements of support from Tehran and Damascus, which deploys 35,000 troops in Lebanon, Hizbullah launched daring attacks Monday and Tuesday on Israeli and SLA forces in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The guerrillas even carried out operations from the southern sector of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley — a front which had remained dormant for several months.

Israel struck back with air raids and a barrage of shelling on villages north of the border strip, wounding five civilians since the start of the year and damaging more than 50 homes.

He warned Hizbullah of punitive action if it con-

tinued attacks on the "security zone."

However, Hizbullah's political officer for South Lebanon Haj Hassan Hoballah told AFP the guerrillas were "determined to fight until the total liberation of Lebanon territory and defeat of the enemy and its agents."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accompanied by senior officers went to the zone Thursday to show support for Israeli troops and boost the flagging morale of the SLA, which has taken the brunt of the recent attacks.

Mr. Rabin shook hands with SLA commander Antoine Lahd, a retired Lebanese army general, and pledged that Israel "will only agree to make peace with Lebanon if Hizbullah is disbanded... and the SLA integrated into the Lebanese army."

"Contacts have been going on for some time on the SLA's fate. We have

given the SLA a chance to prove itself."

He added: "We have given the SLA a chance to prove itself."

Given the passports to be

checked, the Iraqi officer brushed them aside saying: "No problem. You are friends, you can go."

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PRAYER TIMES

05:10 ... Fajr (Sunrise) ... Thalassa
07:50 ... Dhur
11:45 ... Asr
16:59 ... Maghrib
18:28 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Switzerland, Tel. 810740

Churches of God Church, Tel.

657255.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

657440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Church of the Assumption Tel.

622366.

Church of the Assumption Tel.

623541.

Rain is expected in all the regions particularly in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be cloudy with winds westerly active in Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. Min/Max. temp. 1/7
Agaba 1/7
Desert 6/16
Jordan Valley 7/13

IRRIBD: Dr. Ali Al Shogari 246140
Al Quds pharmacy 1—1

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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Min/Max. temp. Min/Max. temp. 1/7
Agaba 1/7
Desert 6/16
Jordan Valley 7/13

ZARQA: Dr. Rajah Saqr 901290
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 657111

Civil Defense Department 657111

Civil Defense Immediate 657111

Civil Defense Emergency 657111

Supporters want Aristide forever

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (AP) — Creole graffiti on the walls and billboards read "Aristide for life." Slogans such as "Aristide for 1,000 years" grace the decayed downtown district.

The nine-member Electoral Council, which is to administer two elections this year, was recently stacked with supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The traditionally anti-Aristide army has been humiliated and reduced to a fourth of its size in favour of a police force that Mr. Aristide's government will oversee.

Some see these developments as pointing to the popular priest staying beyond his term. Others say staying on could be ruinous to Haiti.

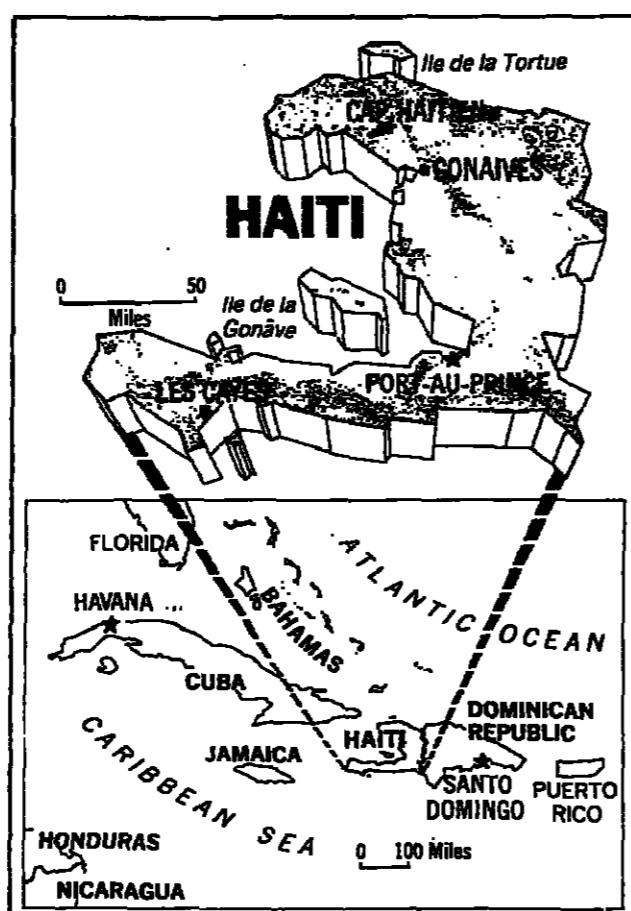
Mr. Aristide denies ambitions beyond his five-year term, which ends in February 1996. Under the constitution, he cannot run again for five years.

He has said the measure of democracy in Haiti was not his election, but the transfer of power to a freely elected successor when his term expires.

"Surely things will improve if Haiti gets through the year with successful elections for a new parliament and Mr. Aristide's successor. It will give the country confidence," said Colin Granderson, chief of the U.N. civilian mission in Haiti. "Political stability will create a favourable investment climate, and jobs will follow."

However, a nascent grassroots movement has been floating the idea of extending his term, an idea that Mr. Aristide once supported before submitting to American pressure to step aside.

A pro-Aristide newspaper,



exile.

Mr. Aristide is described by some as lacking vision to the long-term development needs of his country, focusing instead on short-term humanitarian needs to the poorest nation in the Americas.

"While humanitarian aid is important, it is cosmetic," said Raymond Lafontant, director of the Haitian Association of Industries, which was generally sympathetic to Mr. Aristide during his exile. "It doesn't create production and it doesn't create jobs."

"That Aristide is keeping power in his hands doesn't matter," Mr. Lafontant continued. "The president is popular in his country and there is no other such force in Haiti up to now. But if he

stays on, he will find me fighting him."

Meanwhile, Canada will send some 500 troops to Haiti to help rebuild airports and other parts of the Haitian infrastructure, officials said Monday.

The Canadian army and air force will send engineers and technical personnel, according to John Williston, a spokesman for Defence Minister David Collenette.

The troops will not be sent until Haitian authorities confirm that the situation is stable, said Mr. Williston.

Canada has sent 13 Royal Canadian Mounted Police to maintain order and 25 others to train Haitian police. An additional 65 will be sent in early March.

Mr. Aristide's supporters are expected to sweep the parliamentary elections, which may be held in May. A friendlier parliament could interpret the constitution to make up the three years as president Mr. Aristide lost in

U.S. AID chief hits back at critics

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of the U.S. foreign aid agency hit back Tuesday at conservatives in Congress who want to abolish it, saying that if they did so the government would only have to re-create it later.

Agency for International Development (AID) administrator Brian Atwood said such a move would damage U.S. leadership. He accused the critics of advocating amoral conduct abroad while preaching traditional moral values.

Mr. Atwood's comments in a speech prepared for delivery to an international development conference came as AID faces an uncertain future, with some Republicans calling for its blood.

Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell has introduced a bill to cut foreign spending and scrap AID, while the administration itself is considering proposals to incorporate AID and two other independent agencies into the State Department.

Mr. Atwood said the United States was at a "crucial juncture," with world population growth likely to increase the challenge over the next 30 years and disease, food shortages and poverty causing more migration and instability.

"Now more than ever we need a strong institution capable of addressing these threats," he said. "If some on the hill (in Congress) have their way and we lose that capability now, make no mistake, we will have to reinvent it later."

"It is remarkable that some who advocate a return to traditional standards in America can simultaneously argue for moral indifference in international conduct."

U.S. overseas aid in 1993 totalled about \$9 billion. In absolute terms this was second only to Japan, but as a percentage of gross national product it was the lowest among major Western nations, AID officials say.

"The problem is not the informed critics who honestly believe there is a better way to achieve our goals. The problem is created by those who want to win the day by tearing down our institution."

Mr. Atwood said most Americans believed about 20 per cent of their tax dollars went on foreign aid, whereas the real figure was less than one half of one per cent.

Despite this, more Americans supported foreign aid than opposed it, he said.

Mr. Atwood, who was appointed in 1993 to clean up AID after allegations of inefficiency and corruption, also contested recent charges by the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank that it was still squandering money.

"Those who think that we can lay down the burden of leadership should understand that our retreat will resonate throughout the international community," he said.

Mr. Atwood, who was appointed in 1993 to clean up AID after allegations of inefficiency and corruption, also contested recent charges by the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank that it was still squandering money.

He accused the group of making selective quotes from recent reprints by AID's own inspector general, and said the failings identified by the inspector had been corrected.

Crane used to winch 500-pound ailing woman

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's heir to the throne Prince Frederik returned from a tropical island holiday with a lingerie model amid speculation about his marital future. In a TV interview, Prince Frederik did not mention his girlfriend but listed qualities Denmark's next queen should possess. "She must be at ease with herself and something of an individual. She will have to be an independent woman, not a doll. It's no easy job," the prince said. Prince Frederik's girlfriend, Danish model Karina Stokholm, accompanied him to the island of Mauritius this month fueling speculation she might become Denmark's next queen.

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) — Firefighters had to use a crane to lift a 230-kilogramme (506-pound) woman out of a third-floor window and take her to hospital. Fire Department officials said. The woman, who was not identified, had made an emergency call to her doctor Sunday evening but the latter was unable to carry her to a waiting ambulance even with the help of several men. The physician then called the fire department which sent a crane to help transport the ailing woman to hospital.

Boys find loot of 20-year-old robbery

LONDON (AFP) — Three boys playing on the bank of a canal in northwestern England came across the loot of a burglar committed some 20 years ago and worth £50,000 (\$75,000), police said Tuesday. Damian Eccles, 11, his brother Daniel, 13, and David Jones, 16, were digging a foxhole beside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Halsall, when they came across a metal box. "We opened it up and when we saw all the silver and jewels inside we thought we were rich. We went to a house nearby and phoned the police from there," Daniel Eccles said.

The United States said Monday U.S. embassy officials in Japan were checking on the whereabouts of as many as 20,000 Americans.

Clinton marks Martin Luther King holiday

DENVER, Colorado (AP)

President Bill Clinton and other Americans honoured Martin Luther King Monday amid a dispute between the King family and authorities over how to preserve the slain U.S. civil rights leader's legacy.

"What he lived and died for was for everyone of you to have the right to do good and be good and make the most of your life," Mr. Clinton said in an address at a commemorative ceremony for Rev. King held here.

Mr. Clinton linked the famed dream speech of Rev. King, who would have been 60 years old Monday, to his own efforts to improve the lives of average Americans and bring the American dream within their reach.

Mr. Clinton said when he took office in 1992, Washington did not have the key "to reclaim that dream for which

crowd that Rev. King's dream of a country united in racial harmony had not yet been achieved.

"Martin knew that this wasn't a one-generational struggle," he said. "He knew he would not make it to the end, so it was very important that he have a family that could carry on."

The president's trip, which includes a visit to flood-damaged California, is aimed at promoting his Middle Class Bill of Rights package of tax breaks for families with children and students.

Meanwhile, Rev. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and their children placed a wreath on Rev. King's crypt in Atlanta, Georgia, early Monday, then attended a packed Ebenezer Baptist Church where both Rev. King and his father had preached.

Former Atlanta Mayor and King aide Andrew Young, wept as he reminded the

Thieves ham it up in France

DIJON, France (AFP)

Thieves stole 840 kilos (1,850 pounds) of ham from a warehouse over the weekend, police said. They broke into the refrigerated facility overnight and made off with 660 boxes of jellied ham with parsley, a specialty from the Dijon region of eastern France, the police said.

Marcos son interviewed, kissed by Aquino's daughter

MANILA (AP) — The son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos laughed, talked and exchanged kisses on live TV Monday with a daughter of the opposition leader Marcos is suspected of having killed, Kris Aquino, a daughter of slain politician Benigno Aquino and host of a talk show on the government-controlled RPN-9 station, interviewed Congressman Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., 36. Her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, has accused the elder Marcos of masterminding her husband's killing. The next generation was more conciliatory. "In fairness, everyone I see Bongbong, he is so articulate, he does not look like he could kill another person," the 23-year-old Ms. Aquino said. In 1983, Ms. Aquino's father was assassinated by a soldier as he returned from exile in the United States. Three years later, an uprising drove the Marcoses into exile in Hawaii and installed Corazon Aquino as president. Mr. Marcos died in Honolulu three years later.

Greek MPs shelve Mitsotakis' indictments

ATHENS (AP) — The Socialist-dominated parliament voted Monday to suspend the indictments of conservative former Premier Constantine Mitsotakis and two of his former ministers whom it accused of corruption.

Last year, the Socialist government pushed indictments through parliament accus- ing Mr. Mitsotakis of taking a bribe in a cement company's sale and of au- thorising wiretaps during his 1990-1993 government.

It also charged former Fi- nance Minister Yannis Paleokrassas and former In- dustry Minister Andreas Andrianopoulos with alleged illegalities in the privatisa- tion of the Aget-Heracles cement concern in 1992. All three have denied the charges.

In a secret ballot after a

daylong debate, deputies voted 154-102 in favour of suspending Mr. Mitsotakis' indictment on the wiretapping charge. They voted 155-98 to suspend legal action against the former premier and his two ministers in connection with the cement com- pany's sale.

There are 300 seats in the single-chamber parliament. But of the 274 deputies pre- sent, 18 abstained in the first vote and 21 in the second. The ruling Socialist Party (PASOK) has 170 seats and the conservative New Demo- cracy Party has 109. Two smaller parties walked out before the vote.

Simpson trial set to begin

LOS ANGELES (APF) — Accused murderer and foot- ball great O.J. Simpson faces this week the most highly publicised trial in U.S. history, pumped by high- powered attorneys pitching in incendiary elements of racism and wife abuse.

O.J. Simpson, 47, who is black, is accused of slashing to death his ex-wife Nicole, 35, and her friend, Ron Goldman, 25, both of whom are white. This capped, pro-secutors say, years of violent abuse of his wife.

Defence attorneys argued

that marital turmoil is irrelevant and instead in-

sisted that a racist detective

framed Mr. Simpson by plac-

ing a key piece of evidence — a bloody glove matching one

at the crime scene — or his

law.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito will rule Tuesday or Wednesday whether to allow the 12-person jury

made up of eight blacks, one

Hispanic and two whites to

hear the evidence of wife

abuse.

Opening arguments in the

trial began Thursday, a few

days after reports surfaced

that two of his most promi-

nent defence lawyers —

Christopher Darden and

Robert Shapiro and F. Lee

Bailey — are feuding and

have quit speaking to each

other.

Mr. Shapiro learned that

Mr. Bailey had for weeks

been leaking to the media

items intended to diminish

Mr. Shapiro's legal skills

while enhancing his own,

the New York Times reported Monday.

The feud between the out-

sized legal egos has only

added to the Hollywood frenzy

surrounding this trial in

which Mr. Simpson co-wrote

a book in jail proclaiming his

innocence while Judge Ito

starred in a television inter-

view.

And hundreds of reporters

and photographers have con-

verged on the courthouse for

"the trial of the century"

that has created a bonanza for

the T-shirt and memorabilia entrepre-

neurs hawking their

O.J. wares outside.

The media muscle brought

to this trial promises to im-

print on the national con-

ciousness, at least tempor-

arily, the issues of domestic

violence and racism.

Race tensions surfaced as

defence and prosecution at-

torneys, both black, sparred

over the question of

Singapore fines newspaper for contempt

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore court imposed heavy fines on an American professor and officials of the international Herald Tribune (IHT) newspaper Tuesday after finding them guilty of contempt in a published article.

On Sept. 15, the Socialist majority indicted Mr. Mitsotakis on June 16, claiming that he authorised the wiretaps of political opponents while in power. The trial before a special High Court and Appeals Court judges was to start on Jan. 23 if the indictment had not been suspended.

On Sept. 15, the Socialist majority indicted Mr. Mitsotakis on charges of taking a bribe of \$22 million in the privatisation of the Aget-Heracles Cement Company. Mr. Paleokrassas and Mr. Andrianopoulos were accused of illegalities in promoting the company's sale.

Premier Andreas Papandreou, 75, said in his speech that he wanted the country to put the past behind it for the sake of national

World News

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Chechen volunteers march along a boulevard in Grozny heading for the frontline as Russian troops moved in to the city (AFP photo)

Outside volunteers swell ranks of Chechen fighters

GROZNY, Russia (R) — An artillery barrage forces Chechen fighters moving on foot through the rubble of Grozny to lay up for a breather in the lee of a shattered building.

Among them is a huge man with Asian features and a Kalashnikov.

Igor describes himself as a volunteer — some would call him a mercenary — from the Russian Federation's Buryat Republic on the Mongolian border.

He is one of hundreds who have slipped into Grozny from other Russian republics to help defend the Chechen capital.

These adventures are leaving bands of Chechen irregular troops who are battling Russian tanks and troops to a standstill in the ruins of the city.

"I was a businessman in the Buryat Republic with many friends in Chechnya, and I came to fight as a matter of justice," Igor told reporters in English.

"This is a fight against the fascism of the Russian regime.

American dollars and Japanese yen are falling on Chechen fighters moving on foot through the rubble of Grozny as bombs and shells. Boris Yeltsin is using the world's financial credits to exterminate Chechnya," he declared.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin branded the Chechens as Nazi collaborators during World War II and shipped the entire nation to Kazakhstan as punishment in 1944.

Most of the deportees returned to their homes 20 years later only to find Chechnya dominated by ethnic Russians who had moved in their absence.

The neighbouring republics of Ingushetia and Dagestan, whose Muslim peoples are ethnically close to the Chechens, are contributing most of the outside volunteers to the Chechen rebellion, including some women who serve as snipers.

But fighters have come from all across the former Soviet Union.

"These guys are real men and good fighters, believe me," said Yahya Dashayev, 37, a former high school teacher who turned street fighter over the past five weeks.

"We have some Kazakhs in our unit and they are giving the Russian soldiers a very hard time. The Kazakhs

know what we are fighting for, they know our history and the way the Russians have treated us. They're free-don't fight."

Fyodor said of his prior military experience:

"I am to Grozny because I think what Russia is doing in Chechnya is wrong. It's a question of fairness. The Chechens deserve their freedom."

Smoking a cigarette, right foot propped on the stoop of an apartment block, bright blue stocking cap compromising his camouflage fatigues, Fyodor affects the nonchalance of a veteran as shells land in the neighbourhood around him.

Asked what would happen if he were captured by the Russian army, he laughs.

"They won't catch me. I will go to the mountains and this will turn into a partisan war and we will be fighting a very long time."

A swashbuckling, fair-

Crisis in India's ruling party reaches flashpoint

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A leadership feud in India's ruling Congress (I) Party is set to reach a flashpoint after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's public warning to his arch rival, a party source said Tuesday.

Mr. Rao, the 73-year-old Congress president, is planning to oust former minister Arjun Singh from the 109-year-old party for leading a near-revolt against his leadership, a newspaper reported.

"The expulsion of Arjun Singh...appears to be imminent," the usually well-informed Hindustan Times said in a front-page report.

Congress leaders declined to comment on any possible moves by Mr. Rao, but the Times said the decision-making Congress Working Committee (CWC) was likely to meet here in the next three or four days "and take a decision in this regard."

Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil confirmed a meeting of the CWC, of which Arjun Singh is a member, was due, but gave no further details.

Other Congress sources, however, said the crisis in the ruling party was coming to a head, and that Mr. Rao would move against Arjun Singh ahead of crucial legislative elections in six Indian states in February and March.

"Arjun Singh's strategy is to wait for a poor Congress performance in the polls so

that he can launch his final assault against the PM," one source said. "The PM would like to pre-empt that."

The developments followed Mr. Rao's first public warning Monday to his critics in the ruling party who had said he had crossed the limits of tolerance and needed to be disciplined.

"Leave it to me," Mr. Rao told members of the Congress youth chapter. "It is my responsibility to maintain discipline in the party and I will fulfil my duty as the party president."

Mr. Rao, under attack within the Congress following its election rout in two key states last month, said he had not responded to the increasing vocal attacks on him so far because he believed in democracy.

"But the limit (of tolerance) has been breached," Mr. Rao thundered, in a rare display of public annoyance with Arjun Singh, his key rival in the Congress who quit the cabinet on Dec. 24.

"The current (dissident) activity in the top level of the organisation will be affected," he added. "Discipline will not be tolerated anymore."

Congress sources said Arjun Singh's supporters were also preparing for a showdown in the event of his expulsion from the party.

"There is a lot of activity going on," one dissident said. "Let us see what Rao can do." Arjun Singh declined to

comment on Mr. Rao's warning, saying: "He (Rao) has every right to speak..."

Arjun Singh, since resigning from the government, has blamed Mr. Rao for the crisis in the Congress, called for a "human face" to the government's economic reforms and demanded a public apology to India's Muslims for the 1992 razing of a 16th century mosque by Hindu fanatics.

Mr. Rao, Congress sources said, was under increasing pressure from supporters to move fast and decisively against Arjun Singh before the state elections to prevent an escalation of dissidence in the event of a Congress rout.

Potential analysts have warned that a prolonged bout of disaffection in the Congress with Mr. Rao or a split in the party would jeopardise the economic reforms begun by the prime minister after taking power in June 1991.

Meanwhile prohibition came into force in Mr. Rao's home state of Andhra Pradesh Tuesday in response to a prolonged anti-liquor campaign by women's groups.

Andhra Pradesh, a sprawling southern coastal state of 66 million people, is the second Indian state to go dry, after Gujarat on the west coast, birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi.

All liquor shops in Andhra Pradesh, India's third most populous state, closed their shutters at midnight Monday.

Security scare mars Pope's Papua New Guinea visit

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (R) — A Filipino man armed with a fully loaded 15-round semi-automatic pistol was detained while trying to enter a papal mass in Papua New Guinea.

Police then launched a security alert involving Filipino and Australian authorities but after a nationwide search discovered Tuesday that the two had left the country last week, he said.

Initial police concerns were that they might be connected with an alleged assassination plot reportedly uncovered in Manila last week at the start of Pope's tour 11-day tour.

"As far as the security operation for his holiness there were no major incidents apart from these two incidents reported. I am quite satisfied with the level of security," Mr. Taku said.

Despite the security scares, the large number of police and troops at Tuesday's mass could not stop the crowd mobbing the Pope's open-air truck.

On his second day in Papua New Guinea, the Pope rode

through mud and was welcomed as saviour from drought because his mass coincided with the first rain in the capital in nearly a year.

The ceremony in the small outdoor stadium beatified Peter To Rot, a religion teacher killed by Japanese occupying forces during World War II for refusing to give up his faith.

"Some people are saying this rain is Peter To Rot's miracle," a resident of Port Moresby said.

Tribal people in this South Pacific country, where magic and sorcery are still practised, saw the rain as a Papal gift.

"I'm going to be able to tell people that my God brought this rain as a gift," joked an Irish missionary.

Tribes in the mountainous interior saw their first white man in the 1930s when explorers arrived. Spirit worship and magic rites are widespread and sometimes mix with Christianity.

The Pope is on the second leg of a four-nation Asia-Pacific tour, his first major overseas trip since he underwent bone-replacement surgery on his leg last April.

Pope John Paul seemed occasionally uneasy standing in the open truck, which swayed as it was driven through mud to a canopied altar platform where he celebrated mass.

He was at times visibly uncomfortable standing in the unsteady vehicle, apparently fearing he would lose his balance.

Although Vatican officials say his overall health is good, the Pope has great difficulty walking, even with his cane.

Thousands of people, many in traditional dress of grass skirts, penis sheaths and dog-teeth necklaces, stood in monsoon rain for a glimpse of the Pope.

Bare-breasted women, their faces smeared with yellow makeup made from pig grease, danced for the Pope.

Jordan's Chechens want to fight

AMMAN (AFP) — Angered by what they see as Western complacency towards Moscow, young men of Jordan's large Chechen community are itching to defend their homeland against Russian attack.

"If there is a way I am ready to die in defence of Grozny, and that goes for all of us," said student Yazan Shishani, 18.

"That's what we all want," added cabinet-maker Mohammad Shamsedin Ashab, 35. "What's happening in Chechnya touches the heart of all members of our community."

The leaders of the Association of Friends of Chechnya, which claims to represent 15,000 people of Chechen origin and to have the support of 150,000 others with their roots in the Caucasus, deny separatist republic.

"Our activity consists in

making public opinion aware of the Chechen drama and organising the collection of humanitarian aid," said one of the association's militants, Adnan Yunes Madhab, 37, a researcher in Caucasian history.

He and his colleagues said they knew nothing of volunteers leaving Jordan for Grozny, as alleged by Moscow, and confirmed by a senior Jordanian official, who denied however that Amman was giving them any assistance.

Reports in Moscow Sunday said Russia had appealed to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to prevent "mercenaries" and others from those countries going to fight in Chechnya.

"How can one deny a people its most basic right, of self-determination," demanded Mohammad Ashab, adding, "I defy anyone to find a single Chechen opposed to independence."

The Chechens in Jordan do not openly criticise this attitude, but express stupefaction at the relative international silence on Chechnya.

"How can one deny a people its most basic right, of self-determination," demanded Mohammad Ashab.

Meanwhile the association is continuing to collect humanitarian aid, stocking chests of medical supplies in its headquarters while awaiting for it to be dispatched.

"We have got together enough to fill a cargo plane, but administrative complications are delaying its being sent off via the Red Cross and Red Crescent," an association official said.

The Chechens who settled in Jordan maintain close links with their homeland, speak-

ing the language at home and recounting the stories of Chechen resistance to Russian tsarist and Communist rule.

"My grandmother was de-

ported with her family to Siberia during Stalin's rule,

and she often tells us stories of that time," said Mohammad Ashab.

"We tell our children the sagas of Chechen heroes like Haji Murad," who fought Russian imperial troops in the mid-19th century, said Adnan Ashab.

Meanwhile the association is continuing to collect humani-

tarian aid, stocking chests of medical supplies in its headquar-

ters while awaiting for it to be dispatched.

"We have got together enough to fill a cargo plane, but administrative complications are delaying its being sent off via the Red Cross and Red Crescent," an association official said.

U.N. tries to hold Bosnia ceasefire

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb forces drove tanks into a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia and government troops maintained a grip on two northwestern villages, triggering fears of Serb counterattack, U.N. spokesmen said Tuesday, revealing further threats to a tottering truce.

Here in Sarajevo mean-

while U.N. authorities sought to settle disputes between Serb and government

officials that are blocking humanitarian gains from the New Year cessation of hostilities.

After moving 1,500 metres into the eastern Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica, rebel Serb forces overnight positioned several tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the sector, U.N. spokesman Paul Risley said.

The presence of heavy weapons can be considered a threat to the (U.N.-designated) safe area of Srebrenica and to the civilians of that safe area," he added.

At the same time mainly Muslim Bosnian army units continued to occupy the towns of Vedro Polje and Klokoč in northwestern Bosnia, which they seized in an offensive Saturday.

"We are concerned that the Bosnian Serb army may

attempt a counter-offensive, as they have threatened to do," Mr. Risley added.

Serb retaliatory shelling into Bihać town, from where the Muslim offensive was launched, killed seven people over the weekend and prompted strong protest letters to both sides from U.N. Bosnia commander General Michael Rose.

The Serb and Bosnian army territorial advances are seen by the United Nations as clear and worrisome breaches of the truce, which called notably for a separation of forces on the ground.

The army had initially pledged to quit the area by Jan. 4 but has continued to maintain units in the sector past the deadline, damaging relations with the Serb military and blocking implementation of other truce provisions — notably the reopening of critical airport crossings.

Also Tuesday, according to spokesman Major Koen Sol, U.N. civil affairs chief Viktor Andreev will try to bring Serb and government delegates together in a face-to-face encounter to resolve another dispute preventing the restoration of free passage out of this besieged capital.

Separate U.N. contacts with the parties Monday produced on accord.

Balladur may declare candidacy today

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur is set to declare, possibly as early as Wednesday, that he will stand for the French presidency, firing the starting gun on what is widely seen as a one-horse race.

His declaration, a foregone conclusion, comes amid disarray and discord on the French left and a flagging campaign by his main right-wing rival, Giscard.

With recent opinion polls giving him a 20 per cent lead over his nearest rival, and as minister after minister lines up behind him, Mr. Balladur's victory seems almost inevitable.

Mr. Balladur has for months retained a self-imposed silence about his ambitions to run for the April-May elections to replace Socialist President François Mitterrand, who has been in power for 14 years.

He has said he will declare his intentions when the current parliamentary session is over: It is scheduled to end Wednesday, but could be extended unexpectedly, although not for more than one day.

Mr. Balladur is the clear front-runner. But analysts point out that by declaring he will immediately lose the

critics have denounced it as straight electioneering, but

it is indicative of the need both candidates will have to win votes from the political centre-ground on social issues.

Mr. Balladur, although not officially campaigning, has counter-attacked with staunch defences of his government's record, particularly with regard to a fledgling economic recovery.

He has claimed the election of a rightist president, ending the two years of "cohabitation" with the Socialist Mitterrand, will make "everything possible" after the May second round vote.

Mr. Balladur's cause received a significant boost last week when hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a former Chirac ally, declared he will be supporting the premier in the ballots.

The presidential election is seen largely as a contest on the right, with the left struggling to find a credible candidate after its main potential nominee, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, announced in December that he would not run.

Mr. Balladur may not yet have said much about his political ambitions, but he is certainly prepared for the fight.

Ranariddh calls Vietnam visit a success

HANOI (AFP) — Cambodian co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh ended a fence-mending visit to Vietnam Tuesday, hailing the three-day trip as a great success after reassuring Hanoi about a thorny immigration problem.

Prince Ranariddh said he had allayed Hanoi's fears that a contentious Cambodian immigration law — which has severely strained relations between the two neighbours in recent months —

Opinion & Analysis

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Time to use time

GIVEN THE fact that the next Israeli general elections are less than two years away, the clock appears to be ticking away fast against the attainment of a complete and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. To begin with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's political fortunes do not look too good for the moment. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity seems to be on the rise and so are the prospects for the Likud to win the next elections scheduled for 1996. There is a growing consensus on both sides of the Israeli political landscape that the waves of violence and tension that seem to increase in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and on the Lebanese-Israeli border are doing more damage to the peace process. With every attack and counter-attack between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, the Israeli political pulse seems to harden rather than soften against any meaningful compromise that could set the Israeli-PLO peace negotiations on track again. The posture of Palestinian extremists is unwittingly aiding and abetting the political fortunes of the Israeli extremists, something that bodes well for the Likud but not for the ruling Labour government.

Israeli growing violence against the Palestinians as evidenced by the recent killings of Palestinians is also hardening sentiments on the Palestinian side against making compromises in order to move forward the peace talks between them. The recent disclosures made by the memoirs of PLO negotiator Mahmoud Abbas that Rabin's forces were in cahoots with the PLO, prior to the holding of the 1992 general elections in Israel, on negotiating strategies would not help much the declining political ratings of the Labour Party. Still Abbas' tell-all-book stands to hurt the Likud as well since the revelations contained in it would corroborate the fast accumulating evidence that the Likud Party was also engaged in secret talks with the PLO prior to the 1992 elections.

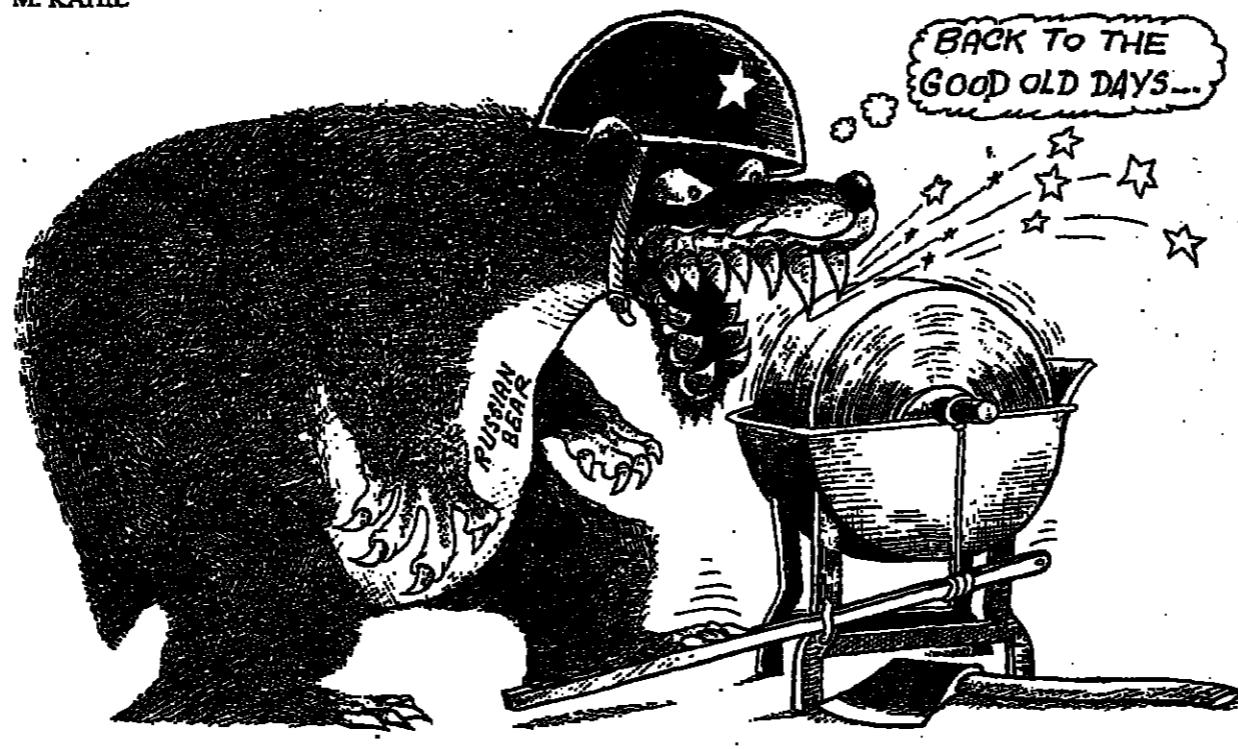
Thus the overall picture for peace between Israel and the remaining Arab parties that is yet to culminate in treaties looks grim for the moment in view of the limited period still available before the next Israeli elections. Translated into real terms, the Rabin government has only till November of 1995 to make peace deals with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. After that date, the Labour Party may lose its ability to manoeuvre since it can no longer make so-called unpopular moves especially when the cycle of violence seems to get a stronger grip on events in the occupied Palestinian territories and southern Lebanon.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour Tuesday called for a general campaign against smoking. Quoting statistical sources, Mohammad Subehi said that JD 456 million worth of tobacco is consumed in Jordan every year by 1.25 million smokers. Add to this the cost of medical care for diseases resulting from smoking, estimated at JD 228 million and JD 50 million in lost business caused by smoking-related sickness and a similar sum spent on cigars and other tobacco and one will realize that a fortune, that could be spent on the poor and on financing development projects, is being wasted, said the writer. It is strange to see Jordan encouraging smoking through the presence of a special fund for supporting the tobacco industry and it is even strange to see most doctors smoking while their duty is to help protect public health, added the writer. Despite laws that ban smoking in public places, people are allowed to violate the regulations and get away with it and we see the government allowing imported cigarettes to be marketed in the Kingdom, said the writer, who suggested that one day a month should be designated as a no-smoking day to start the practice of ending the habit of smoking and save national wealth.

A WRITER in Sawt Al Shaab urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to mend its laws, which have been in force for the past 15 years with a view to improving pension paid to beneficiaries. Nazih Qousi said that in comparing pension paid to retired government employees, to pension paid to those benefiting from the SSC one can find that the pension of regular government employee, who had served for 20 years, is double that offered to non-government employee who retired after working for the same period. The writer said that this is an injustice done to the SSC beneficiaries who pay monthly premiums to the SSC. The writer urged the SSC director-general to keep his promise, made in a recent statement on television, to examine the prospects for increasing the pension of SSC beneficiaries.

M. KAHIL



Susser's account of Wasfi Al Tel's life lacks deep reading of political dynamics

'On Both Banks of the Jordan: A Political Biography of Wasfi Al Tel,'
by Asher Susser, pp. 208, Frank Cass, first edition, 1994.

By Lu'say Al Rimawi

IN THIS biographical book, Asher Susser, an Israeli scholar at Tel Aviv University, seeks to delve deep into Jordanian politics to exhume and demystify the events which surrounded one of its greatest political personalities. Due to Susser's nationality factor, his sources are merely drawn from interviews with contemporaries, general articles and Wasfi Al Tel's own writings, speeches, articles and press conferences. Susser's task is further confounded by the inordinate secrecy which shrouded the decision-making process in that sensitive era and the lack of reliable insider information. Unfortunately, the self-appointed task of unearthing the political dust of Wasfi Al Tel eventually proves to be well beyond the limits of the author, as he leaves many intriguing questions virtually unanswered. (Though the book undoubtedly and commendably serves as a narrative reading of Wasfi Al Tel's life and also as an introductory reading on Jordan's political history during the sixties).

The book is divided into seven chapters, preceded by a general introduction, and a conclusion. In the first three chapters Susser examines Wasfi Al Tel's early years, the beginning of his political career and his service in the Jordanian government. In his discussion of Wasfi Al Tel's rise to political pre-eminence, Susser relies heavily on recent works of the Jordanian historian Sulayman Al Musa. Wasfi Al Tel's rise to political pre-eminence is rightly traced to the mid-fifties, when his public criticisms of Jamal Abdul Nasser and simultaneous support of the deeply loathed Baghdad Pact endeared him to the Jordanian establishment. His strong friendship with Premier Hazza' Al Majali paid off dividends and was also instrumental. Wasfi Al Tel served as a diplomat in Bonn and Tehran, Chief of Royal Protocol, director of the General Directorate for Guidance and Information (at a time when Jordan's relationship with the United Arab Republic was deteriorating), and Jordan's ambassador to Baghdad.

In the fourth chapter Susser discusses Wasfi Al Tel's accession to premiership, when in January 1962, a period of "relative tranquility," he formed his first cabinet replacing the outgoing Bahjat Al Talibani (p. 36). His government of young, dynamic and educated people won in February 1962 the unanimous confidence of Parliament. Quite rightly observed,

Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy and in November 1962 free parliamentary elections were held. But, Wasfi Al Tel's popularity did not last for long. Friction between him and some aspirant PLO representatives (notably Ahmad Al Shukari, who was propped up by anti-Jordanian Arab forces) took its toll, especially in light of the vitriolic war of words between Al Tel and Abdul Nasser following the Jordanian-Saudi support for the royalists in Yemen. According to Susser, because of the two Baathist coups in Syria and Iraq in 1963 and Jordan's desire to improve its standing in a region littered with Arab nationalist regimes, Al Tel tendered his resignation in March 1963.

In the fifth chapter, Susser examines in lucid details Wasfi Al Tel confrontations with the PLO and Abdul Nasser. In February 1965, Wasfi Al Tel was reinstated as a prime minister in an era which had been marked by reconciliation with Egypt. In Susser's view, the likely confrontation with the PLO was the "immediate" reason for Wasfi Al Tel's come-back (p. 72). He also

"Quite rightly observed, Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy."

alludes to alleged reports that the Saudis were "dissatisfied" with Jordan's reconciliation with Egypt (p. 71). Additionally, in order to confront leftist and "pseudo-Marxist" radicalism which was still operating in the Kingdom, Susser claims that Wasfi Al Tel's return was also marked by official tilting towards Islam (p. 73). However, given the ominously *modus operandi* of the PLO, the Jordanian establishment was justified in its deep apprehension of the PLO's intentions of subordinating the Palestinian population on Jordanian territory to its will. And predictably, deadlock between the Jordanian government and the PLO was inevitable. Wasfi Al Tel's firmness in the face of Ahmad Al Shukari's demands earned him great notoriety among the PLO supporters. This escalation between Jordan and the PLO lead to rupture in relations in 1966.

Furthermore, deterioration in Jordan's relationship with Syria following an abortive coup, together with seditious broadcasts from Cairo against Amman and the November 1966 Israeli attack on Sumu' (south of Hebron), created a highly tense atmosphere. Fierce accusations against Wasfi Al Tel by domestic and

Arab critics led to his resignation in December 1966. But his reinstatement later was the strongest possible sign of the establishment's confidence in him. The emboldened Wasfi Al Tel now pursued even tougher policies against the PLO and Abdul Nasser closing the PLO's office in Jerusalem in 1967, withdrawing Jordan's recognition of the republican Yemen and recalling Jordan's ambassador to Egypt in February 1967. But in March 1967 Wasfi Al Tel tendered his resignation because of the impending parliamentary elections. Susser provides no conclusive proof for the dismissal of Wasfi Al Tel, but nevertheless, argues that his resignation was to "placate the Palestinians without appearing to be submitting to immediate pressure" (p. 122). Further, he adds that Al Tel's general policies were not completely jettisoned and that the fact that Wasfi Al Tel was appointed as chief of royal protocol put him "at the centre of events and at the highest level of decision-making" (p. 122).

In the sixth and seventh chapters, Susser examines Al Tel and the Six Day War and the eviction of the PLO guerrillas from Jordan. Susser quite clearly demonstrates that Wasfi Al Tel was adamantly against the war and quotes his grim

lamentations afterwards "I had a premonition of what would happen" (p. 123). Following the new regional realities Al Tel's importance waned and in the first few years after the 1967 defeat, Al Tel according to Susser was, for the most part, in the "political wilderness" (p. 130). However, following the September clashes between the Jordanian army and factions of the PLO, Wasfi Al Tel was reinstated in October 1970 in order to maintain law and order. Wasfi Al Tel was at the head of a relentless but successful campaign against the PLO presence in Jordan which ended in its eviction in July 1971. Sadly, as Susser points out, on 28th of November 1971 and "at the peak of his political career... Wasfi Al Tel was assassinated."

According to Susser, because of his "anti-Egyptian record," Wasfi Al Tel was considered as a *persona non grata* in Egypt. But nevertheless, Wasfi Al Tel went to Egypt to take part in the discussions of the Arab Defence Council "against the advice of His Majesty King Hussein" (p. 169). Susser, however, does not provide any serious evidence to dismiss the complex web of the various controversial stories woven around Al Tel's

assassination.

Susser's conclusion provides a personal reading into the composition of the socio-political system in Jordan and the role of East Banker elites.

On many occasions one feels that Susser slips inside his protagonist interpreting their actions and speaking their minds. Moreover, his book does not reveal any major contribution to what is not already publicly known about Wasfi Al Tel's life. He also does not provide deep readings into the domestic political dynamics which were then in operation. For example, Susser adduces the flimsy proof that King Hussein's alleged reticence constituted an "evidence" of His Majesty's "reservations" about Al Tel when he was allegedly castigated on policy issues in a meeting which took place in late September 1971 between King Hussein, Bahjat Al Talibani, Qasim Al Rimawi and Wasfi Al Tel (p. 168).

Neither does he provide any solid analysis of the ideological objectives of Al Tel and his position on Trans-Jordanian nationalism. Most importantly, in his conclusion Susser does not discuss Wasfi Al Tel's likely chances of political survival in light of dramatic regional political developments, especially after the withering away of Nasserism, and the collapse of the bipolar international system.

However, more than any other prominent East Banker political leader, Wasfi Al Tel's political fate was inextricably linked with an internecine (but inevitable) struggle with irredentist and rather very extreme PLO elements. One cannot agree more with Susser's insightful observation that on the whole, Wasfi Al Tel seldom harboured any inherent anti-Palestinian sentiment per se, though probably was dispassionate enough to anticipate the dangers which overcharged Arab radicalism could bring upon Jordan and the Palestinian cause. For, in addition to his unquestionable political acumen, Wasfi Al Tel was also a Jordanian prime minister who had seen for himself (while fighting to liberate Palestine in the late forties) the disastrous consequences which had been wrought by presumptuous Palestinian nationalists. To many East Bankers, Wasfi Al Tel, especially after his dramatic and untimely death, still embodies an ultimate East Banker nationalist. Undoubtedly Wasfi Al Tel's not-too-chauvinistic pride in his East Banker heritage, his forceful character coupled with his courage and pragmatism will always continue to inspire admiration and curiosity.

The writer is a Ph.D candidate at the Law Department, The London School of Economics and Political Science. He contributed this article to the *Jordan Times*.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

U.S. puts relations with S. Asia on new footing

By Pratap Chakravarty

Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry ended a tour of Pakistan and India on Saturday aimed at forging new security relationships as part of an "even-handed" U.S. approach towards the bitter South Asian foes.

The Pentagon chief, during his talks here and in Islamabad, stressed repeatedly that the United States wanted to put its ties with India and Pakistan on a new footing in the post-cold war era.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, a former close ally of India, "old barriers to (Indo-U.S.) cooperation have been replaced by new opportunities," Mr. Perry said, welcoming a "new era in Indo-U.S. security relations."

The thaw in ties between New Delhi and Washington was reflected in the signing by the U.S. Defense Secretary of what he described as an "historic" agreement on expanding Indo-U.S. defense cooperation.

In Islamabad, Mr. Perry sought to repair once-closed ties strained by a dispute over Pakistan's nuclear programme by reviving a forum for bilateral military cooperation that had been dormant for more than four years.

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Features

Israel reneged on promised freeze of W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — More than 2,000 housing starts were approved in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank last year despite a government promise to the Americans to stop most building, according to studies released Tuesday.

The total number of homes now under construction in settlements is about 4,000, the contractors' association said Tuesday. According to a housing ministry report leaked to the Israeli media, the government planned to accelerate the pace of building this year.

The building drive, with an emphasis on Jerusalem satellite settlements, appears to be part of a last-minute land grab in the West Bank before Israel and the Palestinians begin negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories next year.

Palestinian leaders and Israeli liberals warned Tuesday that the government could torpedo autonomy negotiations.

On a hilltop outside the West Bank settlement of Psagot, hundreds of Palestinians led by officials from Yasser Arafat's self-rule government protested the construction policy Tuesday and clashed with Israeli troops.

"The claim that Israel stopped or froze settlement construction is not true," said one of the protesters, Palestinian Transportation Minister Abdul Aziz Haj. "If they continue to expand, it will destroy the peace process."

Israeli legislator Dedi Zucker said continued building in the West Bank showed a warm hand by Israel.

"If we go on with the construction, it will be proof to the Palestinians and to the world... that we don't really mean it when we say we want to end occupation," said Mr. Zucker of the liberal Meretz party, a junior partner in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Coalition government.

But Mr. Rabin said Tuesday the government never promised a complete settlement freeze, and said at the time some investment in continuing settlements would continue.

He suggested the Americans backed the Israeli position.

"We have understandings with the Americans concerning certain things, which re-

By Jonathan Freedland

WHEN Americans marked Martin Luther King Day on Monday one group in particular remembered the preacher's plea for equal civil rights, and repeated his demand that people be judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the colour of their character." This group was not black Americans, but the nation's hottest new constituency: angry white men.

Declaring that they have had enough of being pushed aside in the name of political correctness (PC) and multiculturalism, America's white males are fighting back.

From the grass roots of California to Congress and the Supreme Court, they are declaring war on the positive discrimination which they say has turned them into victims, denying them opportunity because of their colour and gender. Their aim is nothing less than to roll back two decades of political orthodoxy.

The focus of the movement is, fittingly, California. America's largest state spawned some of PC's greatest excesses, from mandatory bilingualism to the labelling of Shakespeare and Milton as DWEMs, Dead White European Males. Now California is leading the movement to undo it all.

Two San Francisco academics are seeking to place a California Civil Rights Initiative on statewide ballots in 1996 — to coincide with the next presidential election. If they gather 615,000 names the state will have a referendum on "affirmative action." If it passes there will be no more official preference granted to women and minorities in awarding jobs and contracts.

Under U.S. law, state

settlers can and do favour women, blacks and Hispanics over white males — all in the name of remedying past discrimination. It is this above all else that has put the "angry" into angry white men. Across America white males complain of losing out to less qualified women, squeezed out by PC quotas.

"It really burns your butt," says Randy Pech, whose case will be heard next week by the U.S. Supreme Court. He is suing the government after his company lost a federal building contract in Colorado. His firm entered the cheapest bid, but were beaten by a Hispanic-run concern. "We're a small, family-owned company. We don't discriminate. Why

The whitelash starts here

Two decades of political correctness have cost some American men dear. Now they're fighting back



should we be punished."

The Supreme Court, now with a moderate-conservative majority, could well agree and use Mr. Pech's case to reduce sharply the scope of affirmative action. His lawyers are asking the court to bring federal law into line with state and local rules, which bar positive discrimination except when it corrects proven past prejudice.

Much at stake. Under schemes started 20 years ago by Richard Nixon, racial calculations play a part in government spending on everything from defence parts to cleaning contracts. More than \$13 billion of federal money goes to small businesses owned by minorities.

The anger that fuels the movement is striking because it cuts across all the usual boundaries. You hear the same complaints from the

California Governor Pete Wilson — always a canny reader of the public mood — has lent his support, announcing that he, too, supports eliminating preference programmes. Mr. Wilson was criticised last November for supporting Proposition 187, which denied key public services to illegal immigrants. But the measure passed with a whopping majority. The Civil Rights Initiative offers just the same brew of touchy racial and economic issues, and opponents are already gearing up for a re-run of the Proposition 187 battle.

The anger that fuels the movement is striking because it cuts across all the usual boundaries. You hear the same complaints from the firefighter in Wisconsin as the journalist in New York — both claiming to be punished for being part of a shamed elite.

Senator Jesse Helms, bete noire of the left, struck this same nerve in his 1990 Senate re-election campaign. His TV ad showed a pair of white hands clutching a job rejection letter, while a voiceover revealed the vacancy had gone to a "minority." Mr. Helms came from behind and won.

Women are no less a target for the white male's anger. Hollywood has played to it twice in the last two months. The plot of Disclosure has Michael Douglas being sexually harassed by a ruthless Demi Moore and losing a

promotion to her; while David Mamet's Oleanna articulated male frustration at the purported tyranny of workplace rules against sexual harassment.

For positive discrimination has not been confined to the public sector. Top companies have invited multiculturalism consultants to advise on sensitivity, and middle-managers have found their own fortunes contingent on the ethnic and sexual diversity of their payrolls.

Perhaps the most striking thought is not this latest counter-revolution itself so much as the simple fact that America is still obsessed with the same topics that preoccupied it in King's day, and in the civil war a century before: race, race and race.

Interestingly, Mr. Jackson will not be able to rely even on solid black support. A growing number of middle-class blacks are conservatives, in the mould of controversial Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. They argue that affirmative action has produced more racism, not less, by causing resentment, and undermining legitimate black achievement.

"He only got the job because of his colour." Other black writers note that the real beneficiaries of positive discrimination have been well-to-do white women and that pure economic need would be a fairer criterion.

The "whitelash" is gaining strength each day. Many of the Republican young Turks now in Congress owe their seats to angry white male voters. Some are pushing for a federal law against preference for "protected groups" and may attach riders to all spending bills, preventing government agencies discriminating positively.

If it passed, President Clinton would either have to sign it or veto it. A veto would hand the Republicans just the kind of campaign issue on which they would love to fight for the White House in 1996. But approval would split the Democratic coalition by pitting women and blacks against the angry white men of organised labour.

Now there is a counterblast to the PC mindset, and it has even reached the birthplace of political correctness: American academe. Academic and critic Harold Bloom ruffled feathers last year with his book Western

should be able to withstand a major quake due to sophisticated engineering.

During U.S. earthquakes that have wrecked roads, Japanese experts had confidently predicted those in this country would stand up to even a serious quake. But sections of several major expressways collapsed, as did many modern buildings.

Reuter correspondent Abi Sekimatsu, who flew over the devastated area in a helicopter, said the scene resembled one of Japan's "Godzilla" monster movies with the landscape scarred by fires, twisted roads and crumpled buildings.

"From the air it looks as though some prehistoric creature had trampled through the area," she said.

The quake, officially named "the 1995 Southern Hyogo Prefectural Earthquake," struck at 5.46 a.m. (0446 GMT), rumbling across the centre of Honshu island from the Japan Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

The epicentre of the quake was located about 20 kilometres beneath the island of Awajishima, which is about 30 kilometres offshore from Kobe.

Many houses also collapsed on the island, which is a fishing village and popular tourist spot for the 1.5 million residents of Kobe, Japan's main western port.

The quake was the latest in a series of tremors that have rolled through northern and central Japan in the last three weeks.

Experts had been warning that a major earthquake might be on its way for the past few weeks. The latest quake hit nine days after three major tremors, ranging from a 5.2 on the Richter scale just outside Tokyo to 6.9 and 4.2 readings in Hachinohe, 500 kilometres north of the capital.

Most of the people missing were in collapsed buildings in Kobe, including an eight-storey building and a three-storey hotel.

"We were not prepared for this, because we never thought a quake of this magnitude could hit the Kansai area," said businessman Katsushi Takeuchi, 53.

Skies were black with sooty smoke over western and central Kobe, the hardest hit areas of the city, as fire raged through many districts.

Long lines formed at the few functioning public phones in the city centre.

The Hanshin highway linking Kobe with nearby Osaka lay in ruins following the collapse of about half a kilometre of an elevated section once supported by 30-metre pillars. Elevated highways were reported to have collapsed at another eight points across the city, crushing several drivers to death. Seven trains were de-

railed and five bullet-train bridges destroyed.

For some there was a miraculous escape. Koji Kuwahara, a company worker in nearby Nishinomiya, described how he was driving on the expressway, when the road "suddenly waved and the highway fell over towards the mountainside."

"My car and others slipped off together," he said.

The shallowness of the quake and its proximity to a major population centre were also blamed for the massive destruction.

"The damage would have been much worse if it occurred during business hours," Yoshi Kawata of Kyoto University noted.

The Bank of Japan ordered financial institutions in western Japan to take emergency measures from Wednesday to supply depositors with cash.

The Osaka-Kobe conurbation is one of the wealthiest regions in Japan, but local officials were agog at the scale of the economic damage inflicted by nature.

Kobe Steel Ltd., one of Japan's biggest steelmakers, suspended production at its steelworks here, one of its main plants in Japan.

Matsushita, the world's largest consumer electronics maker, also halted production at its Kobe plant which makes personal computers, word processors and video games.

Jordan backs resolution

(Continued from page 1)

told Reuters that the 16-member panel also discussed forming an Islamic agency to raise funds for Jerusalem and help Palestinians rebuild their institutions there and buy Arab homes back from Israel.

He said the existing Jerusalem Fund had run out of cash and the new agency, which if it went ahead would be run by finance ministers of member states, would seek contributions from the OIC countries and from private sectors.

The exact function and brief of the agency was still being discussed, he said.

2,700 feared dead in Japan

(Continued from page 1)

dug into rubble with their hands to search for more than 1,000 missing people, including 20 patients trapped in the debris of a collapsed Kobe hospital.

Dozens of cars were squashed by the collapse of an elevated highway just outside Kobe, and 10 trains were derailed.

A total of nearly 10,000 houses, buildings and other structures were completely destroyed or partially damaged by the quake, which struck Japan's second-most populated area and one of its most industrialised and modern police agency said.

Damage and casualties were in 100 kilometres radius around Kobe, extending to Osaka and Kyoto, where temples and priceless Buddha statues were damaged.

Nearly all the dead and more than half the injured were in the elegant city of Kobe, which nestles between mountains and the Sea of Japan.

The quake snapped vital lifelines to western Japan, cutting train service including the high-speed "Bullet" train, knocking out power and cutting telephone service.

The earthquake also shattered Japan's belief that its newer buildings and roads

would be able to withstand a major quake due to sophisticated engineering.

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The quake was the latest in a series of tremors that have rolled through northern and central Japan in the last three weeks.

Chechens announce truce

(Continued from page 1)

In Grozny, Chechen fighters reacted with suspicion and scorn to Mr. Chernomyrdin's televised appeal Monday night. They unleashed a string of obscenities and spat in contempt.

"We don't trust Yeltsin. Chernomyrdin is not important. The war will go on," said a Chechen fighter who gave his first name as Salman.

Saddam: Anti-Iraq camp is crumbling

(Continued from page 1)

Sabah said Iraq was still a threat to Kuwait and Medina into "a theatre for the army of the infidels" during the war.

He praised the performance of his army in the 42-day war which resulted in the ousting of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"Despite the long confrontation in which all weapons of destruction and war were used as well as the ensuing acts of treason prompted by the anti-Arab hatred coming from Iran, Iraq and its army have emerged strong despite all the wounds or the loss of life of sons and brothers."

"This has infuriated aggressors who have come to realise that they completely failed, especially after Iraq has reconstructed all that had been destroyed by the aggressors."

In Kuwait, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Mohammad, who is the UAE's defence minister, was recently named by Dubai's ruling Maktoum family as crown prince of Dubai, the second largest emirate federated in the United Arab Emirates.

"Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait does not end anything. The ruling regime in Iraq will harbour aggressive intentions," Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister, was quoted as saying by Kuwait's Al Watan daily Tuesday.

Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed Al Maktoum, Dubai's crown prince, meanwhile, defended his controversial call on Kuwait to make peace with Iraq.

"My call for the brothers in Kuwait to extend bridges of love with Iraq and the Iraqi people flows out of my love for Kuwait and its people and keen interest (for their welfare)," he said in an interview published Wednesday in Kuwait's Al Seyassah daily.

In Kuwait, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Meanwhile an economic delegation travelling with Mr. Saleh said they had "excellent contacts" with French officials and businessmen aimed at attracting investment to Yemen, which lost

\$11 billion in the May-July

relations with Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ansari told the press conference: "We are ready to discuss borders as long as it is done equitably," warning that "in the past, Yemen rejected even the original Taif agreement."

Saudi-Yemeni relations deteriorated during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of backing Baghdad, and worsened during Yemen's two-month civil war last year.

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"But when relations are normal there will be nothing to worry about," he added.

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Economy

U.S. agriculture official sees great opportunity in Mideast

DUBAI. United Arab Emirates (AP) — A top U.S. official, pointing out that the economic growth in the Middle East could surpass that of China and India, said that there is great opportunity for U.S. agriculture in the region.

Eugene Moos, under-secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services, told members of the American Business Council in Dubai Monday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will act as a conduit for information to the Gulf region.

His remarks were published in newspapers here Tuesday.

"As I go around the world looking at emerging markets in terms of attempting to

focus our resources, I can see great potential in this area," Mr. Moos said. "It's more than an emerging market, it's a sophisticated market, and I see great opportunity here for U.S. agriculture."

Mr. Moos was in the emirate for the Gulf Food Exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Centre, at which more than 50 U.S. companies are participating.

He outlined U.S. agricultural interests and highlighted the gradual phasing out of government farm subsidies in the coming years to improve U.S. competitiveness around the globe.

The Department of Agriculture sees one of its major responsibilities as acting as a

conduit for information to U.S. food supplies and processors on emerging markets like the Gulf.

The department is also interested in assisting developing countries to enhance their agricultural sectors, and can provide technical expertise, a vital part of their economic growth and potential for becoming U.S. customers, he noted.

"When I look at Dubai I'm struck by how similar it is to what I saw in Hong Kong or Singapore, where a lot of trade is being channelled through one centre, and seems to me the potential here is enormous to satisfy the growing demand which is to come," Mr. Moos added.

"We're now able to recognise the potential in this area of the world, and that's one message I'll be carrying back to share with the Department of Agriculture, administration officials, and members of the new Congress," he noted.

Mr. Moos explained that the United States needs to get organised to get a share of the growing food market around the world.

The Department of Agriculture sees one of its major responsibilities as acting as a

Rouble falls to 3,900 to the dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble slumped to below 3,900 to the dollar Tuesday from 3,881 a day ago in interbank trading investors dumped the currency for fear of inflation and political uncertainty triggered by the Chechen crisis.

Bankers said the rouble was likely to tumble through the psychological barrier of 4,000 to the dollar by the end of this week — compared to 3,550 at end-December and 3,234 at end-November.

"There is very strong pressure on the rouble because of Chechnya. The government will have to print money to finance the war and inflation will go up," said Victor Huaco of ITS Finance.

"Everyone is trying to get into dollars. Treasury bills and shares are no longer attractive. People are trimming down their equity positions and switching to dollars," he added.

The rouble fell to 3,861 to the dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) from 3,817.

Bankers said overnight rouble interest rates, at around 150 per cent now, could soar to 200 in the coming days because banks needed more and more roubles to buy dollars.

Japan urged to supply technology to GCC states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have urged Japan to export them technology to help diversify their economies and make them more than just suppliers of oil to the Asian industrial giant, Gulf officials have said.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states raised the issue at a Tokyo conference which brought together more than 400 officials and businessmen from the two sides, GCC Secretary-General Fahim Ibn Sultan Al Qassimi said.

"We presented some ideas, which showed that we want Japan to be a partner in development in the GCC," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Ittihad.

"We do not want our relationship to remain limited to buying and marketing Japanese products. We want Japan to help us in acquiring technology."

Gulf officials said they had asked their Japanese counterparts at the November conference to set up joint industrial ventures in the region as a means to transfer technology to member states.

In return, they pledged long-term, stable crude supplies to the southeast Asian country at reasonable prices. But they added the Japanese

response had been cool concerning the setting up of large industrial projects.

"They showed strong enthusiasm for setting up light and medium sized industries but were cool about our calls to establish heavy industries on the grounds the regional market is not large enough," one official told AFP.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE — have been locked in negotiations with the European Union and other key industrial powers in a bid to persuade them to invest in industries in their region.

They say such projects could be among the most profitable in the world as labour is cheap and their region sits atop 45 per cent of the world's total proven crude reserves of more than one trillion barrels.

But like the Japanese, Western industrialists have been reluctant to commit themselves to major projects, arguing the region is small and investment laws are not encouraging enough due to restrictions on foreign ownership.

GCC states have criticised Japan for its low investment in the Gulf oil sector.

Malaysia tipped for another high-growth year, with problems

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia is tipped to enjoy economic growth of above eight per cent in 1995 but may have to grapple with serious labour, wage, productivity and infrastructure problems, experts have warned.

"There is already a shortage of skilled labour and wages are climbing faster than work output," said Ramli Kusaini, secretary-general of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There're also bottlenecks in power and water supplies," Mr. Ramli told a conference outlining the prospects of 1995 for Southeast Asia's fastest growing economy.

Malaysia's gross domestic product has expanded by an average of more than eight per cent for the past seven years.

Mr. Ramli and some 100 businessmen, economists and officials at Tuesday's conference hosted by the Malaysian

Strategic Research Centre, a private think-tank, said they were looking at between eight per cent and 8.5 per cent growth this year.

Mr. Ramli said a strong rise in domestic and external demand was expected to contribute largely to this year's economy, resulting in an even stronger need for cost-effective labour to turn out the additional goods and services required.

Officials have singled out the 22 per cent rise given to banking clerks at the end of last year as the most extreme

wage hike, saying it could pressure workers in other less-profitable sectors to demand similar increments, which could fuel inflation.

"This would surely impact on our competitiveness and the trend in wage increase if not watched very carefully," Mr. Ramli said.

He said Malaysian firms should penetrate more emerging markets to stay competitive and form independent professional bodies

Kuwait must end spending waste — premier

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said in remarks published Tuesday he wanted to rationalise government spending to eliminate waste and extravagance and raise sources of revenue other than oil to curb a big budget deficit.

"There is squandering and extravagance, hence there must also be rationalisation of spending," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told Al Watan newspaper.

"We do not think about our present only. We care for future generations," said Sheikh Saad, who is also the crown prince.

The government, in its most ambitious effort at fiscal restraint, plans to slash a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit by a third to one billion dinars (\$3.34 billion) in the

1995/96 financial year starting on July 1.

Officials are worried by a deficit that has ballooned due to the war which a U.S.-led alliance ejected Iraq from the emirate. The government says that next year it will cut spending in several sectors, reduce subsidies on petrol and services such as water and electricity and increase customs levies.

The measures are bound to generate heated debate among 670,000 Kuwaitis used to generous welfare state benefits. Some benefits are also extended to the million-strong army of guest workers who make up the rest of the 1.7 million population.

Sheikh Saad gave no details of public spending waste but said proposed increases

in charges for public utilities should not be imposed on less well-off Kuwaitis and other residents.

The measures were not aimed at "gaining profits for the government" but at rationalising the use of such services.

"Yes, there is a financial deficit as the figures show. But God willing that deficit will not continue, and at the same time, sooner or later, there ought to be some other sources of revenue found in support of the current one (oil)," he said.

Oil accounts for 90 per cent of state revenue, a marked change from before the war

when income from now-depleted state foreign investments sometimes exceeded oil earnings.

Economists say increasing non-oil revenue will have to be done by encouraging the growth of a moribund private sector depressed by worries about Iraq, debt problems and a fall in population since the 1991 conflict.

The government has also said that in the long term income tax might have to be introduced. Sheikh Saad made no mention of tax and gave no details of the new service charges, saying it was premature to talk about what formula would be used.

All the above mentioned products are available :: customs duty free at the bonded at very reasonable prices.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

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HITACHI

Said Al Sayed Khalouf and Sons Co., agents of HITACHI of Japan and PHILCO of the USA for electrical home appliances wishes to inform employees of diplomatic missions and the United Nations agencies that the company has available for sale different sizes of refrigerators, microwave, and television sets of screen sizes ranging from 42 inches to 20 inches, washing machines, automatic bread makers, vacuum cleaners, videos and video cameras.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Clear your mind of confusion and avoid confrontation this morning as the Leo Moon opposes Mercury. Although there are no aspects in effect the rest of the day and evening things will work to your advantage if you avoid taking any risks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You get a flood of ideas which should be weeded out and the best of such utilised to your advantage for you to be successful.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) A partner may have an eye on your mate, but don't quarrel over it and all will be fine. Find a better way of handling your obligations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't be so concerned with your tasks that you fail to gain a big favour from one who is generous in the outside world.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is an ideal day for handling tasks you have agreed to do, but don't run off on any tangents. Be careful of your comments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to enjoy entertainments which you like without family interference. Forget that home activity which is not important.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be happy at home and don't let some outsider try to interfere with your pleasure. Invite charming persons to visit you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is an ideal day for communicating well with associates and don't allow some monetary worry to deter you from your activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Financial affairs are best handled during the daytime but concentrate more on acquiring than spending. Take it easy today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do whatever is best to improve your well-being even though some duties could be boring. Be happy and satisfied about a new project.

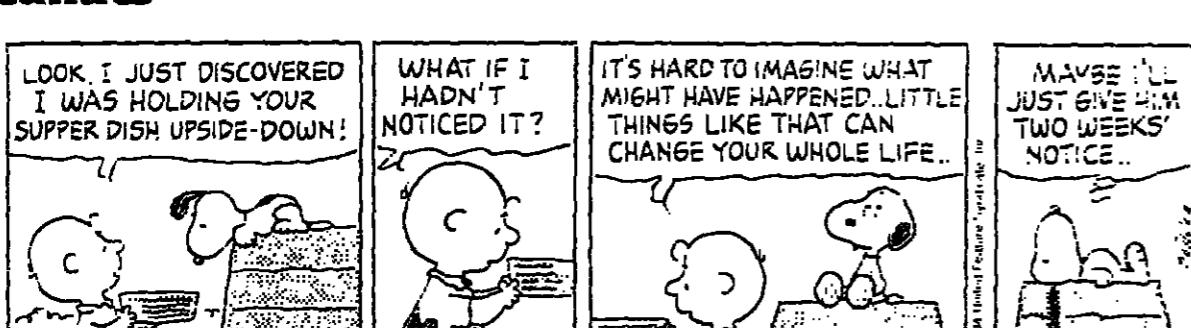
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good day to see an advisor and make final plans for the future. Don't permit a friend to take you away from the practical.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A fine day for being with good friends and enjoying them. Get away from career pressures for a while to regain your equilibrium.

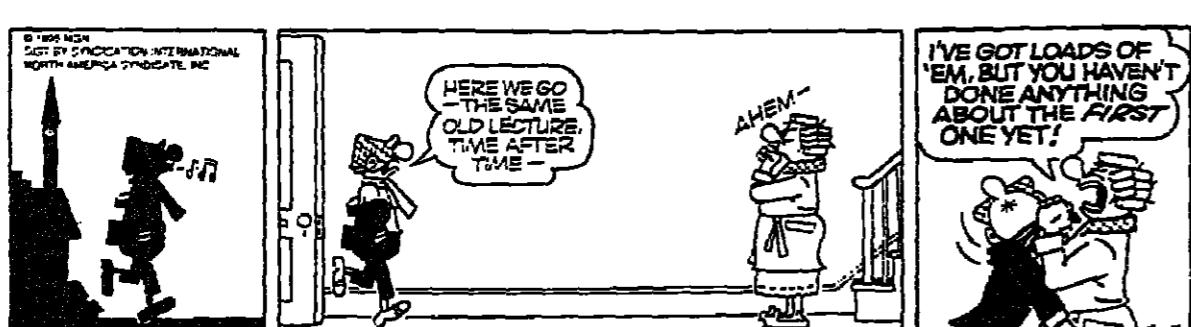
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle vocational and credit affairs first and do not go off on some tangent. A powerful individual can give you the support you need.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

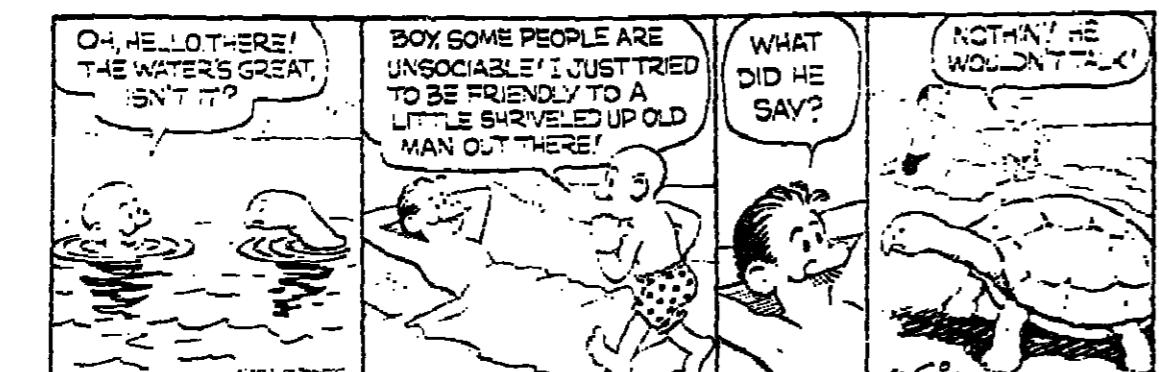
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



U.S. firms win more Indian deals

NEW DELHI (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown announced more deals for American companies Tuesday, bringing the total amount reaped during a ground-breaking trade mission to India to \$4 billion.

"I am absolutely exhausted," Mr. Brown told reporters following a 90 minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The \$2.6 billion in power, petrochemicals, telecommunications and health-care agreements followed \$1.4 billion that were signed the previous day.

Washington has been pressing New Delhi to provide stronger copyright protection and guard against commercial piracy. U.S. companies have urged India to make bidding procedures for big government contracts more transparent to prevent corruption.

"He made an absolute, unequivocal commitment to a continuation of the economic reform process," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown, leading the largest ever U.S. trade and investment mission, said Mr. Rao responded positively to a suggestion, backed by U.S. business, that India open up its financial services and insurance industries to outside companies.

But Mr. Brown said the

United States is India's biggest trade and investment partner but recognises that competition for a marketing hold in the second most populous nation is heating up.

Commerce Minister Prabab Mukherjee and Mr. Brown signed a pact setting up the U.S.-India Commercial Alliance, which will bring government officials and companies together to boost business ties.

Mr. Sulaiman also said he expected inflation to be capped at four per cent owing to tight monetary measures taken by the government to mop up liquidity.

THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KWONN

□ □ □ □

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FYFAT

□ □ □ □

FLOAWL

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HARTER

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise

Courtroom battle looms over World Cup stadium

PARIS (AFP) — A courtroom battle is looming between France's most famous architect and Prime Minister Eduard Balladur over plans to build a new stadium to host football's World Cup final in 1998.

Jean Nouvel won the architectural competition to design the two billion franc (\$400 million) Grande Stade on industrial wasteland in St. Denis, eight kilometres north of Paris.

Balladur overruled the decision and picked the rival bid, adding a new twist to years of intrigue surrounding France's last big construction project of the century.

Nouvel has vowed to drag the prime minister through the courts unless he annuls the decision by the end of this week.

"If we can't get justice in France, we will go all the way to the European court," said Michel Huet, Nouvel's lawyer.

The architect is suing Balladur over breach of fair competition as stipulated under French law, arguing that the tender was rigged from start to finish in favour of a rival bid dismissed as "pathetic" by the leading French specialist magazine Architecture Today.

The state originally wanted the most advanced stadium ever conceived, seating 80,000 people for soccer, rugby, the world athletics championships, and dearest to French hearts, an Olympic Games.

To secure the financial viability of the stadium, it also demanded enough flexibility for it to serve as home base for a first division French football club — Paris St. Germain — where crowds of up to 40,000 would not feel lost in acres of empty space.

Post-modernist guru Nouvel beat a rival group of four Paris architects led by Michel Macary and Aymeric Zublena by 10 votes to four in a last round of jury voting in July after a preliminary round in May.

For 2.1 billion francs Nouvel offered a structure that within two days could change shape from a rectangular international rugby or football ground to an oval athletic stadium.

In addition to a sliding roof, ground capacity could be reduced to 40,000 for French club football using a system of suspended curtains shutting off unfilled areas.

The government admits the winning tender, priced at 1.9 billion francs, failed miserably on the last point, making no "realistic" attempt to accommodate club football.

According to Nouvel, the rival bid got away with a string of competition rule violations.

Major modifications to the design were illegally carried out between the two jury sittings in May and July, with the stadium changing shape and location, losing its roof, and ditching its only technological innovation, a mechanism to raise and lower the playing area.

The late changes were so radical no study of spectator visibility from the stands a key requirement of the government, was carried out.

The government said visibility was "ideal" in Nouvel's stadium. But with stands 20 metres further away and sloping gradually, the winning design will produce "the worst stadium in France," says Nouvel.

In response to Nouvel's initial protest last month the government explained that Balladur's choice was only a "preliminary step," though the rival group is locked in contract negotiations with the government and has already applied for planning permission.

The rival architects say Nouvel is attempting to "discredit" them, while the government dismissed as "pointless" his court case which could delay plans to begin construction before the summer and complete the stadium by the end of 1997.

French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said Nouvel's plan "seduced the architects but sportsmen prefer the other."

Not so. Joao Havelange, the head of FIFA who awarded the 1998 World Cup to France, supports Nouvel. Alliot-Marie promised him an 80,000 seater stadium with a roof.

"We originally planned a roof, but then forgot about it," said spokesman for the winning design.

Of the leading French sports federation chiefs, rugby supreme Bernard Lapasset is alone in favouring the winning design, which he says "is shaped like a rugby ball."

Athletics federation chief Jean Pocoblet prefers Nouvel's design, which also won a straw poll of the French football team. Coach Aime Jacquet said: "Nouvel's square stadium is best. I want the stands as close as possible to the pitch."

French international Alain Roche, who also captains Paris St. Germain, for whom the Grande Stade will become the home ground, said: "A square stadium would have been better, I hope I don't have to play there very often."

Cypriot referees end strike

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot soccer referees, who went on strike over crowd violence but were replaced for last weekend's games by foreign imports, admitted defeat Tuesday and dissolved their association board.

"We are in a very weak position ... first the imported referees and then our members who responded to the (football) federation's call to break away from the association," Christos Skapoulis, a spokesman for the island's 200 referees, told Reuters.

"We have dissolved our seven-member board and will elect a temporary new one tonight. We are not on strike anymore ... we will come up with new proposals. We are certain no foreign referee will whistle this weekend."

Soccer officials last month brought in nine Israelis and 12 Czechs to replace Cypriot referees who began their strike last week, saying they could no longer tolerate violence against them by hooligans. One referee had his arm broken this month.

They were also protesting against the refusal of the Cyprus Football Federation to incorporate them while keeping their independence. The federation wants unconditional control over the referees.

Federation President Marias Lefkaritis said Tuesday more than 110 Cypriot referees had already left the association and joined the federation.

But he was not certain whether this weekend's fixtures would be officiated by Cypriot referees.

"It could be Cypriots, it could be foreigners. We don't know yet. We will decide this tomorrow... the issue is not whether the referees have a new board but the fact that their unacceptable attitude and status will remain the same."

Lefkaritis accused referees of enjoying a monopoly for too long and dismissed their assertion that they were striking because of systematic violence against them.

"How come last weekend's games were totally violence-free? Why do they try to give the impression the games are always blood-stained? ... There is prejudice against Cypriot referees but why?" he asked.

The new owner said he was committed to keeping the Bucs in the Tampa Bay area, which campaigned to keep the club when it appeared it might be sold and moved to here, too."

Glazer insisted in the sale agreement that he keep the team in Tampa a minimum of two years. The contract also includes provisions for a \$55 million penalty if the team is relocated within 10 years.

The buck stops here," he said. "Tampa Bay is going to have this team forever as far as the Glazer family is concerned."

The agreement reportedly also includes provisions for

Ewing leads Knicks past Nets; Bulls lose

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing had a season-high 32 points and 15 rebounds Monday as the Knicks won for the ninth time in 10 games, beating the New Jersey Nets 107-90.

Ewing had 18 points in the decisive second quarter when the Knicks broke open the game. Derek Harper added 15 for New York.

Derrick Coleman had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who have lost five of seven games, and Kenny Anderson had 16.

The Knicks blew to a 62-41 halftime advantage and took a 77-51 lead on a 3-pointer by Hubert Davis with 3:40 left in the third quarter, a period in which the Nets missed 14 of 16 field goal attempts.

Bullets 109, Bulls 101: In Landover, Maryland, the Bullets ended their 10-game losing streak, getting 14 fourth-quarter points from Calbert Cheaney in a comeback victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Cheaney scored 23 and Juwan Howard 22 for the Bullets, who had been winless since beating the Los Angeles Clippers on the road Dec. 23. Washington also ended its eight-game home losing streak.

B.J. Armstrong had 26 points and Scottie Pippen 21 for the Hawks 99, Heat 95: In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points and Craig Ehlo 19 as the Hawks edged Miami, lifting their regular season home court record against the Heat to 12-0.

The Heat cut the lead to 98-95 with 18 seconds left on a basket by Glen Rice, who was fouled on the play. Rice missed the free throw. Atlanta got the rebound in a scramble and Blaylock eventually put the game on ice, hitting one of two free throws with

just under eight seconds remaining.

Billy Owens led the Heat with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Rice added 21.

Lakers 96, Clippers 88: In Inglewood, California, Nick Van Exel scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and rookie Eddie Jones added 23 as the Lakers dealt the Clippers their sixth straight loss.

Cedric Ceballos scored six of his 18 points during a pivotal fourth-quarter rally and had 13 rebounds, helping the Lakers win for the 12th time in 15 games.

The Lakers turned a 12-point deficit into an 88-81 lead, outscoring the Clippers 23-4 during a 6-6 span of the fourth quarter.

Loy Vaught scored 18 points and Doug West had 11 points, six assists and a career-high 11 rebounds for the Wolves, who held Hakeem Olajuwon to 22 points.

Jazz 99, Pacers 98: In Indianapolis, Antoine Carr scored all six Utah points in overtime as the Jazz won their club-record 13th straight on the road with a 99-98 overtime victory over the Pacers.

Utah won its sixth straight overall and is 7-1 in January, 16-10 on the fifth match.

Hardaway, who led the Warriors with 21 points, added a free throw with 12 seconds left.

Issel stepped down as coach on Sunday, complaining of burnout. Assistant coach Gene Littles took over as interim coach. Rodney Rogers led Denver with 20 points and Dikembe Mutombo had 15 rebounds.

Timberwolves 94, Rockets 75: In Minneapolis, Isaiah Rider scored 24 points and the Timberwolves held Houston to 28 second-half points in a 94-75 victory over the Rockets.

Minnesota kept the Rockets scoreless for a span of 5:31 early in the fourth quarter and used a 13-0 run to open an 80-62 lead with 7:04 to play.

Christian Laettner scored 15 points and Doug West had 11 points, six assists and a career-high 11 rebounds for the Wolves, who held Hakeem Olajuwon to 22 points.

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Esperance hope for Super Cup glory

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The Mediterranean port of Alexandria in Egypt is the unlikely setting for a match on Friday between clubs from Tunisia and Zaire to determine which is the best in Africa.

Originally scheduled for the 120,000-capacity Nasir Stadium in Cairo, the Super Cup final between Esperance and Daring Club Metema Pembe was switched because African Football Confederation (CAF) officials feared it would not attract many spectators.

CAF may also have been concerned about a possible spectator backlash against Esperance of Tunisia, who defeated Cairo giants Zamalek in a stormy African Champions' Cup final last month.

Zamalek were incensed by long delays in returning the ball at the Al Menzah Stadium in Tunis and the return match erupted during the second half when players traded punches for five minutes.

Meanwhile, Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos submitted a two-tier bid — \$205 million to move the team to Baltimore or \$170 million to operate the club in Tampa.

The trustees rejected a \$163.3 million offer from Tampa developer Tommy Shannon last week. Another bidder pledging to keep the team in Tampa, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, reportedly offered \$170 million.

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Rafter is new Australian hero

MELBOURNE (AP) — He doesn't wear a checkered headband and has yet to win Wimbledon. But Pat Rafter has more in common with Pat Cash than first names.

Like Cash, Rafter has lots of ability, a similar attacking game and has emerged as a heart-throb for Australia's teenaged tennis fans.

The lanky 22-year-old has also taken over as Australia's top-ranked men's player at No. 21 in the world.

Cheered on by the fiercely-partisan crowd, Rafter edged into the second round of the Australian Open Tennis Championships Tuesday with a three-hour, seven-minute 6-3, 1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 triumph over experienced Swiss player Jakob Hlasek.

The National Tennis Centre's retractable roof had been closed to allow the match to go ahead as rain delayed proceedings outside.

But the crowd — screaming "c'mon Pat" and "c'mon Aussie" at any opportunity throughout the match — then did their best to lift it with wild cheering after the Australian put away a Hlasek backhand on the fifth match point.

The win went some way to wiping away the disappointment of his third-round exit to Xavier Daufresne of Belgium last year, a match Australians had expected him to win.

"Last time on the centre court here I let a lot of people down, including myself," said Rafter, who beat a jet-lagged Andre Agassi in an exhibition event in Adelaide last week, and overcame a rash of unforced errors Tuesday.

"It was good to come back and show the crowd I can play and the reason why I'm the No. 1 in Australia," he said.

"If Rafter admitted to being nervous and the tension



Rising Australian Patrick Rafter dives for the ball

showed in a verbal outburst a linesman who had called a Hlasek shot in at the start of the fourth set.

Rafter, who's originally from the remote mining community of Mt. Isa, Queensland, now bases himself in Bermuda.

Asked if he was recognised in the streets there, he replied: "No, there's all sorts of

high rollers there. I'm just a little fella."

If he can live up to his aims over the next two weeks that may change.

"I'm looking to try and win this event now," he said. "Not to make the quarterfinals, semifinals ... I want to win the thing."

The crowd got pretty excited," Agassi said.

Sanchez Vicario cruised equally imperiously past China's Fang Li in her women's singles opener, taking just 50 minutes to advance to the second round while reducing her opponent to tears.

The U.S. and French Open champion — the top seed in a Grand Slam tournament for

World's top golfers in Dubai Classic

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Zimbabwe's Nick Price, Australia's Greg Norman and Germany's Bernhard Langer, the top three of golf's world rankings, will head the challenge to defending champion Ernie Els of South Africa in the \$450,000 (\$675,000) Dubai Desert Classic.

The tournament runs from Jan. 19 to 22 at the Emirates Golf Club.

The Classic starts the 1995 Volvo PGA European Tour schedule, and with six of the world's top 10 having entered, can boast one of the strongest and most attractive fields outside a major championship.

Also appearing will be America's Fred Couples, the world No. 7 who missed the cut last year and wound up providing commentary for a local radio station.

He arrived early Monday and sped to the 18-hole course. Couples was voted by PGA players last year as the best on the tour.

"It's too early to comment on my chances in the classic, but I sure don't want to miss the cut this time," said Couples, the U.S. Rider Cup player who helped United States win three world cups.

Trying out a few swings on the 9th hole on Monday was Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, ranked 8th. He has yet to win a major, having lost to Els in a play-off for last year's U.S. Open.

But the big Scot gained some consolation by topping the European money list for the second consecutive year.

Between them, these six players can boast nine major championships.

Els's stunning six-shot win last year was the prelude to a year which saw the 26-year old shoot to superstar status with victories in the U.S. Open, Toyota World Match Play, Gene Sarazen World Open and the Johnny Walker World Championship.

He has already started this year by capturing the Bell's Cup in his homeland.

His 20-under-par total at the Emirates Golf Club was followed on a record-breaking 11-under 61 in the first round.

Yet, he still had a hard fight in warding off the pursuing Norman, who despite a lung infection, shot four sub-70 rounds to finish second.

Australian Open

Agassi, Sanchez Vicario advance as Sabatini and Ivanisevic crash out

MELBOURNE (Agencies)

— Andre Agassi and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario both breezed through their first-round matches Tuesday at the Australian Open — but only Sanchez Vicario left her opponent sobbing contrabally.

Meanwhile Gabriela Sabatini suffered her most ignominious Australian Open loss when she joined Goran Ivanisevic as one of the big-name losers.

Sabatini, the Argentinian glamour girl of tennis who came here on the back of two consecutive tournament victories after ending a two-and-a-half year, 42-tournament drought, bowed out 6-4, 6-4 to American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer.

Patrick McEnroe of the United States knocked former winner and No. 3 seed Boris Becker out of the Australian Open in a first round match.

McEnroe defeated Becker 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) and will play Britain's Jeremy Bates in the next round.

Agassi made his long-awaited Australian Open debut with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win over South African qualifier Grant Stafford in only 90 minutes.

It was an impressively-controlled performance from the U.S. Open champion and No. 2 seed, who wore a typically-colourful outfit and had a purple bandana tied around his head.

"The crowd got pretty excited," Agassi said.

Sanchez Vicario cruised equally imperiously past China's Fang Li in her women's singles opener, taking just 50 minutes to advance to the second round while reducing her opponent to tears.

The U.S. and French Open champion — the top seed in a Grand Slam tournament for

the first time in her career — downed her inexperienced opponent 6-2, 6-0.

The Chinese player reportedly was left stranded by the power and pace of Sanchez Vicario's shots from the back of the court and wept into her towel after falling 6-5 behind in the second set.

Li cried until it was time to get back on court, then returned to play with her eyes puffy and tears on her cheeks. She made a total of 42 unforced errors and won just 24 points to Sanchez Vicario's 56.

Li said she "felt like a beginner" in the match.

"I couldn't do anything," she said. "Arantxa didn't kill me. I made a lot of mistakes. I thought I could do better. I was in a little bit of a hurry. I wanted to do everything. Sometimes I forget everything. I couldn't hit a ball."

Sanchez Vicario, who said she didn't even notice Li crying, tapped her on the back after they shook hands at the net, but there was little consolation she could offer.

"She's trying but she couldn't hit the ball on the court," Sanchez Vicario said. "She gets more frustrated."

Sanchez Vicario will overtake Steffi Graf at the top of the world rankings if she accumulates 655 ranking points at the Open. She almost certainly will need to win the tournament to do that.

Graf is absent from the first Grand Slam of the year with a calf muscle injury, ensuring a new women's champion. None of the women in the 128-draw event ever has won the Australian Open.

Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine caused the first upset of the tournament, ousting women's No. 9 seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria

4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

There was an upset, too, in the men's singles with Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, a semifinalist last week in Sydney, ousting No. 12 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 despite suffering from tendinitis in his right serving arm.

"I'm very pleased with the win, especially because I haven't been feeling well," said Gaudenzi. "I didn't even feel like playing this morning, but I went out and fought for every point."

Play on outside courts was delayed for four hours by persistent rain, but continued on centre court after the retractable roof at the National Tennis Centre was closed.

Agassi said his new attitude towards tennis is the reason for his decision to play in the Australian Open for the first time.

"Being down here is a reflection of my commitment to tennis," he said. "In the past it interfered with my other priorities."

"Now tennis has become part of my life. This is not taxing at all, and it used to be."

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, is being played on rubberised rebound ace courts. It offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Jan. 29.

Earlier Ivanisevic bemoaned his poor form as 94th-ranked Steeb rolled to a 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victory.

Sabatini, cheered on by sections of blue and white face-daubed fans, called the trainer to manipulate a back injury during the second set and it was 10 minutes before she was able to resume playing.

Werdel Whitmeyer, ranked 47 and who beat Sabatini the last time they played, said

the conditions suited her.

"It was a first round match and Gaby had just had a long week last week and I was prepared to play her," said 27-year-old Werdel Whitmeyer from San Diego, California.

"When Gaby was getting treatment I tried to stay loose and kept concentrating... you have to continue what you were doing when play starts again."

Sabatini said she experienced pain in the lower part of her back at the beginning of the second set.

"It was really painful and after the treatment the pain was still there, it was very tight in a certain spot," she said.

"She is a tough opponent and she didn't miss many balls... I didn't feel good with my shots."

Werdel is married to Ron Whitmeyer, who has had major league baseball experience with the Oakland A's.

Madagascar scores

Madagascar enjoyed its proudest tennis moment at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

In fact, teenager Daily Randriantely achieved the African island's only moment in tennis history, beating Argentine Florencia Labat 6-3, 7-6 on an outside court for Madagascar's first success at an international tournament.

Randriantely, 16, represents half of her country's professional ranks. Her 17-year-old sister Natasha makes up the other half.

She said she hoped her success might persuade her Swiss sponsor to reverse a decision to end their sponsorship assistance following a succession of failures in qualifying tournaments.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday meets with a delegation representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (Petra photo)

King receives AIPAC team, reaffirms resolve for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan would pursue all efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East within the framework of the Madrid conference that launched Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with a visiting group representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the King said the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular "are entering a new phase following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Oct. 26

that restored Jordanian lands and water rights."

"The peoples of this region aspire to stability and comprehensive development of which they have been deprived for many decades," added the King at the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

The King expressed his belief that the coming stage entails diverse challenges and stressed the need for mobilizing "all efforts to deal with the challenges with resolve and commitment to achieve the aspirations of the people

living here and to attain the just and durable peace which enables them to direct their efforts towards development and serving the future generations."

The AIPAC group, led by its Chairman Steve Grossman, later met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, General Abdul Hafez Mirai, at the Army Headquarters.

The group listened to a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their contributions to U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Tuesday plant trees in Mafraq to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan urges attention on developing farmlands

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday met with deputies representing Mafraq Governorate in the Lower House of Parliament as well as members of women's committees in a bid to build cooperation between the two sides and to shed light on women's needs in the government.

Participants in the meeting included Speaker of the Lower House Saad Hayel Srouf, Minister of State Mohammad Abu Aleem, deputies Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, Nawaf Al Qadhi and Abdullah Akhu Isheihad.

Princess Basma said the priorities of women's committees and organisations were clearly defined, aiming first and foremost to change ways of thinking, boosting women's confidence in their capabilities and their ability to carry out a bigger role in the national development process.

The Princess said there was a need to change legislation on women. The National Women's Committee, which includes more than 1,000 members, prepared a programme and defined priorities to activate the role of women, she said pointing out that the committee's raison d'être was to serve as a link between the women's sector and deputies who can make women's voices heard in Parliament.

Mr. Srouf said Jordanian women had proved their ability to take part in all aspects of life in contrast to the view that men were more capable of working in politics.

"Women vied for seats in parliament in the 1989 election and managed to win one seat in the 1993 election," said the speaker, who represents the Northern Bedouins of Jordan in the House.

Other speakers at the meeting included deputies Dughmi, Abu Aleem and Akhu Isheihad, in addition to member of the Mafraq Women's Committee Laila Al Nuaimi.

day when the university has ended its grand agricultural project by planting thousands of fruit and forest trees."

He urged the university to give due concern to developing the desert areas surrounding it in Mafraq Governorate.

He also voiced hope that there would be integration between the residents of the badia regions, the highlands and the Jordan Valley and to avoid concentration on urban areas.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath addressed the ceremony and said that abuse of the environment by man had led to desertification and called for efforts to reverse that.

"What we see today is part of efforts exerted to achieve that end," the Princess said, underlining the importance of directing due concern to the agricultural sector not only by planting trees but also by providing enough care for them at later stages.

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